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Double suicide bombing in Baghdad kills dozens, injures more than 100

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A U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit taxis at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on Jan. 8.

JOSHUA SMOOT/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

'DETERRENT OPTIONS'

US deploys nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers, ships closer to N. Korea ahead of Olympics

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

TOKYO — The U.S. is beefing up its presence around the Korean Peninsula ahead of next month's Winter Olympics by deploying stealth bombers, at least one extra aircraft carrier and a new amphibious assault ship to the region.

With the deployment coming after Washington agreed to postpone massive annual military maneuvers with South Korea until after the games, North Korea says the U.S. is trying to put a chill on its renewed talks with Seoul.

"Such moves are an unpardonable military provocation chilling the atmosphere for improved inter-Korean relations," the North's ruling party said in a commentary published over the weekend.

■ Missile alert mishap feeds skepticism about Hawaii's ability to respond to real emergency
Page 2

Representatives of both Koreas held a second round of talks Monday near the Demilitarized Zone to try to pave the way for a North Korean delegation to join the Pyeongchang Games.

The U.S. has officially welcomed the talks, and the moves represent routine training and scheduled upgrades, according to U.S. military officials.

SEE KOREA ON PAGE 3

Turkey vows to 'drown' US-backed Syrian Kurdish force

By SUZAN FRASER AND SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkey's president on Monday denounced U.S. plans to form a 30,000-strong Kurdish-led border security force in Syria, vowing to "drown this army of terror before it is born," as Russia and Syria also rejected the idea.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also warned U.S. troops against coming between Turkish troops and Kurdish forces, which Ankara views as an extension of Turkey's own Kurdish insurgency.

Turkey has been threatening to launch a new military operation against the main Syrian Kurdish militia, known



Erdogan

as the People's Defense Units, or YPG, in the Kurdish-held Afrin enclave in northern Syria. The YPG is the backbone of a Syrian force that drove Islamic State from much of northern and eastern Syria with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes.

Russia has also warned that the nascent U.S. force threatens to fuel tensions around Afrin.

"The United States has admitted that it has created a terrorist force along our country's border. Our duty is to drown this army of terror before it is born," Erdogan

said in a speech in Ankara.

The U.S.-led coalition declined to comment on Erdogan's threats.

"Turkey is a valued member of a 74-member Coalition and a NATO partner, sharing our mission to ensure the lasting defeat of [ISIS] in Iraq and Syria. It would be inappropriate for us to comment on Mr. Erdogan's remarks," the coalition said in an email to The Associated Press.

The coalition said the new force, expected to reach 30,000 in the next several years, is a key element of its strategy in Syria to prevent the resurgence of ISIS in Syria.

SEE TURKEY ON PAGE 5

NATION

Missile alert mishap feeds doubts about real emergency

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — When Jonathan Scheuer got an alert on his phone of a ballistic missile headed for Hawaii, he and his family didn't know what to do. They went to their guest bedroom, then decided it would be safer on the ground floor of their Honolulu home.

"What do we do?" he wondered.

"Where do we go?" People should immediately seek shelter in a building "or other substantial structure" once an attack-warning siren sounds, according to guidance the state distributed previously. The state recommends having a 14-day survival kit of food and water.

Residents and tourists alike remained rattled a day after the mistaken alert was blasted out to cellphones across the islands with a warning to seek immediate shelter and the ominous statement: "This is not a drill."

"Clearly, there is a massive gap between letting people know something's coming and having something for them to do," Scheuer said Sunday. "Nobody knew what to do."

Lisa Foxen, a social worker and mother of two young children in eastern Honolulu, said the best thing to come out of the scare was that it pushed her family to come up with a plan if there is a real threat.

"I kind of was just almost like a deer in headlights," she said. "I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake."

'I knew what to do in a hurricane. I knew what to do in an earthquake. But the missile thing is new to me.'

Lisa Foxen
social worker

But the missile thing is new to me."

The blunder that caused more than a million people in Hawaii to fear that they were about to be struck by a nuclear missile fed skepticism Sunday about the government's ability to keep them informed in a real emergency.

"My confidence in our so-called leaders' ability to disseminate this vital information has certainly been tarnished," said Patrick Day, who sprang from bed when the alert was issued Saturday morning. "I would have to think twice before acting on any future advisory."

The erroneous warning was sent during a shift change at the state's Emergency Management Agency when someone doing a routine test hit the live alert button, state officials said.

They tried to assure residents there would be no repeat false alarms. The agency changed protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm — a process that took nearly 40 minutes.

The error sparked a doomsday panic across the islands known as a laid-back paradise. Parents clutched their children, huddled

in bathtubs and said prayers. Students bolted across the University of Hawaii campus to take cover in buildings. Drivers abandoned cars on a highway and took shelter in a tunnel. Others resigned themselves to a fate they could not control and simply waited for the attack.

The 911 system for the island of Oahu was overwhelmed with more than 5,000 calls. There were no major emergencies during the false alarm, Mayor Kirk Caldwell said.

President Donald Trump said Sunday the federal government will "get involved," but didn't release details.

An investigation into what went wrong was underway Sunday at the Federal Communications Commission, which sets rules for wireless emergency alerts sent by local, state or federal officials to warn of the threat of hurricanes, wildfires or flash flooding and to announce searches for missing children.

The state of Hawaii "did not have reasonable safeguards or process controls in place to prevent the transmission of a false alert," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement, calling the mistake



ANTHONY QUINTANO, CIVIL BEAT/AP

Cars drive past a highway sign that says "MISSILE ALERT ERROR THERE IS NO THREAT" on the H-1 Freeway in Honolulu on Saturday.

"absolutely unacceptable."

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen urged Americans not to lose faith in their government.

"I would hate for anybody not to abide by alerts and warnings coming from government systems," Nielsen said on "Fox News Sunday." "They can trust government systems. We test them every day. This is a very unfortunate mistake, but these alerts are vital. Seconds and minutes can save lives."

With mobile phones ubiquitous, wireless alerts can disseminate information quickly to a wide number of users, but there have been concerns about creating a panic if they are sent too broadly.

Authorities were criticized for not sending an alert to mobile phones when fires ripped through Northern California in October and killed 40 people. Officials had decided not to use the system because they couldn't target them precisely enough and feared a wider broadcast would lead to mass evacuations, including people not in danger, snarling traffic that would hamper firefighting

and rescue efforts.

The false alarm triggered a broader discussion about national security at a time when North Korea has been flexing its muscles by launching test missiles and bragging about its nuclear capability. Its leader, Kim Jong Un, also has exchanged insults on Twitter with President Donald Trump about their arsenals.

The standoff has whipped up nuclear fears on Hawaii and led the islands to revive Cold War-era nuke tests that drew international attention.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Hawaii Democrat, said officials should be held accountable for the "epic failure of leadership" behind the warning. She said the nuclear threat underscored the need for Trump to meet with Kim to work out differences without preconditions.

"The people of Hawaii are paying the price now for decades of failed leadership in this country" by setting "unrealistic preconditions," she said. "The leaders of this country need to experience that same visceral understanding of how lives are at stake."

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MILITARY

2 Koreas meet again to discuss Winter Olympics

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's delegation to the Winter Olympics in South Korea will include a 140-member art troupe, the two sides agreed Monday, while discussions continue over fielding a joint women's hockey team.

The two Koreas met Monday for the second time in a week as they try to hammer out details for the North's participation in next month's 2018 Games, which the South sees as a way to calm tensions caused by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests.

North Korea said the art troupe will comprise 80 orchestra members and 60 members who sing and dance. The North Koreans will perform twice — once in Seoul and once in the city of Gangneung, where some of the Olympic competitions will be held, according to South Korean delegates who attended the meeting.

Separately, South Korean Sports Ministry spokesman Hwang Seong Un said the two Koreas have agreed in principle to field a joint women's ice hockey team. (See story in Sports, page 28.)

The two sides agreed Monday to meet again at their border Wednesday for working-level talks ahead of an International Olympic Committee meeting planned for Saturday.

North Korea last week agreed to send an Olympic delegation and hold military talks aimed at reducing front-line animosities in its first formal talks with South Korea in about two years. The North has said its delegation to the Feb. 9-25 Games in Pyeongchang would include the art troupe along with officials, athletes, cheerleaders, journalists and a taekwondo demonstration team.

The reasons for North Korea's softer approach are not clear, though some analysts say the South may be trying to divide Seoul and Washington as a way to weaken pressure and sanctions on the country. North Korea carried out nuclear and missile tests last year that triggered harsher U.N. sanctions and worldwide condemnation.

Others speculate the North wants to use the Olympics to show it's a normal country despite possessing nuclear weapons.

North Korea has insisted its talks with South Korea won't deal with its nuclear and missile programs, saying those topics primarily target the United States. Critics question how long the warmer mood can last without any serious discussion on the North's nuclear disarmament.

The North issued a veiled threat Sunday that it could cancel the Games if the Olympics are still engaged to protest what it called South Korea's "sordid acts" that chilled the prospect for inter-Korean reconciliation.

"They should know that (the) train and bus carrying our delegation to the Olympics are still in Pyongyang," the North's of-



Members of the South Korean delegation, right, shake hands with the North Korean delegation before their meeting in Pannunjom, North Korea, on Monday.

COURTESY OF THE SOUTH KOREA UNIFICATION MINISTRY/AP

Korea: Ships, bombers could figure in US response to military emergency

FROM FRONT PAGE

Tensions remain high, and the military deployments are significant.

Last week, the Pacific Air Forces announced three B-2 Spirit stealth bombers with approximately 200 personnel have been deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to the Pacific island of Guam.

The statement said the deployment is intended to provide leaders with "deterrent options to maintain regional stability."

But the Guam deployment hits an especially sore nerve and plays on a key vulnerability for Pyongyang, which is probably the message Washington had in mind as it seeks to make sure nothing happens during the Olympics and also lets Pyongyang know its decision to postpone the exercises is not a sign of weakness.

Last year, flights by B-1B bombers from Guam to the airspace around Korea were a major flashpoint, prompting a warning from North Korea that it had drawn up a plan to target the waters around the island with a missile strike that it could carry out anytime Kim Jun Un gave the order.

The B-2 is more threatening.

It's the most advanced bomber in the Air Force and, unlike the B-1B, can carry nuclear weapons. It's also the only known aircraft that can drop the Air Force's biggest bomb, the 30,000-pound GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator.

The "MOP" capable of penetrating deep into the ground to destroy reinforced tunnels and bunkers, was explicitly designed with North Korea in mind.

The B-2 deployment came just days after



GREGORY BULL/AP

The nuclear-powered USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier leaves San Diego Bay on Jan. 5 for its deployment to the western Pacific.

the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier departed for the western Pacific in what the Navy called a regularly scheduled deployment. South Korean media reports say the carrier and its strike group will reach waters near the Korean Peninsula ahead of the start of the Games on Feb. 9.

The USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, the homeport of which is just south of Tokyo in Yokosuka, also is in the region, and North Korea has accused the U.S. of planning to send another carrier, the USS John Stennis from Bremerton, Wash.

The Marines announced on Sunday the arrival in southern Japan of the USS Was,

an upgraded amphibious assault ship that can carry troops and launch the corps' new F-35B stealth fighters. It can carry 30-plus aircraft, including the F-35s, which are designed for vertical takeoffs and landings.

The ships and bombers could figure largely in a U.S. response to any military emergencies during the Games. North Korea may view them as a greater and more imminent threat.

Aircraft carriers, virtually impervious to any attack the North could mount, are floating platforms for sustained air assaults, while the F-35 fighters could be a key part of any potential strike on Kim himself.

Korean ties in imminent danger.

The North Korean art troupe being sent to the South will play folk songs and other classic masterpieces that are well-known to both Koreas and appropriate for the theme of unification, chief South Korean delegate Lee Woo-sung said. He said more discussions are expected to work out details of North Korean performances.

The art troupe would be larger than the previous six that North Korea has sent to South Korea since 1985. The North last sent such a group in 2002, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

A joint statement after Monday's meeting didn't mention North Korea's well-known Moranbong Band, an all-female ensemble once hand-picked by the North's leader, Kim Jong Un.

ficial Korean Central News Agency said. "The South Korean authorities had better ponder over what unfavorable results may be entailed by their impolite behavior."

KCNA criticized remarks by South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week that credited President Donald Trump for getting the North to sit down with the South. It also accused Seoul of

letting Washington deploy strategic assets like an aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula on the occasion of the Olympics. The United States is beefing up its presence around the peninsula in what it describes as routine training and scheduled upgrades.

The warning is milder than the North's typical fiery, bellicose rhetoric and didn't appear to put the recent signs of warning

MILITARY

Memorial will honor Native American veterans

By TARA BAHRAMPOUR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Mall is studded with monuments to iconic people and events, from presidents to wars to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Later this month, finalists will be announced to design a memorial to a group with less name recognition: Native American veterans.

In the 20th century, Native Americans served in the United States military at a higher per capita rate than any other ethnic group, and their service stretches back to the Revolutionary War. This might sound surprising, given their fraught history with the U.S. government. Why would so many choose to fight and sacrifice for a country that has often treated native tribes so badly?

The answer lies in the way many see their patriotism, as inextricably connected with the land itself, said Rebecca Trautmann, project curator of the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian, upon whose land the memorial will be built.

"They have described an inherited responsibility to protect their homeland, their families, their communities and their traditional way of life," she said.

Or as Debra Kay Mooney, a Choctaw who is a veteran of the Iraq War, put it: "Our ancestors are the very groundwork of the United States because we died here first. It's our ancestors' bones and marrow that has degraded into the ground that is actually in the roots and the tops of the tallest trees. ... We needed to protect our ancestors' bones."

While Congress approved the erection of the memorial in 1994, it did not authorize fundraising for it until 2013. (It is scheduled to be unveiled on Veterans Day in 2020). Museum staff and members of an advisory committee traveled around the country, meeting with tribal leaders and veterans, and came back with a few directives: Be inclusive of all tribes and traditions; don't leave out women; remember the sacrifices of family members; and include an element of spirituality.

The design must be broad enough to encompass the vast array of tribes (567 are federally recognized) yet specific enough that veterans and their families will recognize themselves and their stories.

That will not be easy for the panel of experts tasked with selecting the design. For example, some tribes' history of service goes back longer than others; to some, horses were integral, while others never rode them.

"What an intriguing memorial this will ultimately be if it is able to encompass for the casual observer and for Native Americans the oddities of where we stand today as Native Americans in the 21st century," said Kevin Brown, chairman of the Mohegan tribe, who along with Mooney is on the



Jefferson Keel, a Native American Vietnam veteran who was awarded a Bronze Star, looks at an exhibit dedicated to Native Americans who served in the U.S. military at the Museum of the American Indian.



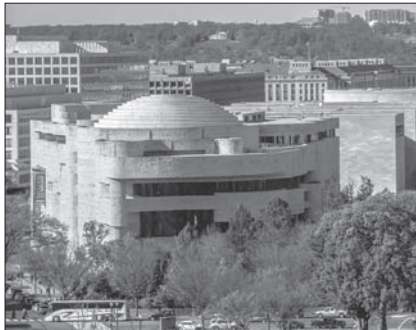
Michael Robinson Chavez/The Washington Post

Keel is lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation and co-chair of the memorial's advisory committee.

advisory committee. "You have native scouts who were on both sides in the Indian Wars; you have the first Native American to die in the defense of what would be called the U.S.A., in the Revolutionary War," who was a relative of Brown's.

The placement of the memorial is significant, said Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, who is co-chair of the committee. "Anyone who goes out of the Capitol, down those steps, that will be the first thing they see. To me, that's exciting."

Keel acknowledged the contradictions inherent in serving a government that did not always serve its native population fairly. "I think it's in the warrior tradition to protect the freedoms that



Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post

The National Museum of the American Indian in Washington is the planned site for a memorial honoring Native American veterans.

we have, even though we were not allowed to be citizens in general until [the 1920s]. Even before they were allowed to vote, they served." The memorial, he said, is "long overdue."

Many Americans don't know the extent of the more painful history of Native Americans, as well as many of their accomplishments, he said. "We're not what they learned about in public school systems."

That history includes the forcible removal of native children from their families to be educated in boarding schools — which in some ways helped prepare them for service. "Students were taken from homes, their hair cut short, put into military uniforms and made to lead regi-

mented lifestyles — so, often, the military recruited them," Trautmann said.

Among the best-known Native American veterans are the Choctaw, who passed messages in their own language during World Wars I and II — a code the enemy was unable to break. And Ira Hayes, one of six U.S. servicemen to raise the flag at Iwo Jima, became the subject of a Johnny Cash song.

Even among Native Americans there is a knowledge gap about their contributions, said Wayne Don, an Alaska Native who is a colonel in the National Guard. "I didn't know that my two grandfathers were Alaskan territorial guardsmen until I picked up a book," he said.

More than 31,000 Native American men and women are on active duty, and more than 140,000 veterans identify as Native Americans or Alaska Natives. Typically, they are celebrated in their own communities, with ceremonies and warrior societies that help them when they return from service. In 2004, a powwow was held in a combat zone near Fallujah, for which family members sent clothes and other items from the United States.

But despite the high status of warriors in many tribal traditions, Native Americans often have a harder time than the general population gaining access to veterans' benefits, Trautmann said.

"On the one hand, they have this support from the community that other vets don't, and on the other hand, it can be harder for them to access medical and social services," she said. "Many of them turn to traditional healing to deal with some of the PTSD from combat."

An important aspect of the memorial is that "it's intended to welcome these vets and be a healing experience for them, whether it's for vets who served many years ago, vets just returning from service or families who lost members in service," Trautmann said.

One of those is Allen Hoe, a Native Hawaiian and Vietnam veteran whose son Nainoa, 27, was killed in Iraq in 2005.

"He was very proud of the fact that his ancestors for 100 generations were warriors," said Hoe, who has another son in the military. "He wanted to step forward and provide the gratitude to his ancestors and conduct himself the way they would want him to."

Hoe said he was originally shocked and disappointed to learn there was not already a memorial honoring Native American veterans.

While many served with distinction, recognition was not always accorded to them in their lifetime.

Master Sgt. Woodrow Wilson ("Woody") Keeble, a full-blooded Sioux, served in World War II and later in Korea. He was recommended for a Medal of Honor, but the paperwork was lost; he was finally given the award posthumously in 2008.

"He would be very honored" to see the memorial, said Keeble's stepson, Russell "Hawkins." He comes from a warrior culture that epitomized all the values of honor and bravery, and he would want the story to be told.

Hawkins also hopes the memorial, by highlighting Native Americans' service and sacrifice, will do something else.

"I think the most bigoted white supremacist, when he reads what Woody did, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers, he'll say, 'Gee, maybe these guys aren't so bad after all. Maybe they deserve a little bit more understanding, a little bit more compassion.'"

"I think even the hardest heart will soften."

WAR IN SYRIAN TERRORISM

Turkey: Erdogan says Kurd enclave is already under fire

FROM FRONT PAGE

"A strong border security force will prohibit (ISIS) freedom of movement and deny the transportation of illicit materials," the coalition said in a statement to the AP. "This will enable the Syrian people to establish effective local, representative governance and reclaim their land." The SDF currently controls nearly 25 percent of Syrian territory in the north and the east.

The core of the force is to comprise fighters from the existing Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, the coalition's ally in the fight against ISIS. Some 230 cadets already have been recruited to the new border force, according to the coalition. The force is expected to be deployed along the borders of the SDF-held areas and Iraq and Turkey.

Turkey sent troops into Syria in 2016 to prevent Syrian Kurdish fighters from forming a contiguous entity along its border. It also has supported rival Syrian rebels and independently fought to drive ISIS from parts of Syria.

Tensions with Washington have erupted repeatedly over its support of the SDF, prompting U.S. troops to deploy in northeastern Syria to prevent clashes between the Kurdish forces and Turkey-backed fighters.

In recent days, Turkey said it soon would launch a new operation in Afrin and sent reinforcements to the border. Russia deployed military observers to Afrin last year in an effort to prevent Turkey-Kurdish clashes.

On Monday, Erdogan said preparations for the military assault

on Afrin "are complete," adding that an operation could start any moment. He said Turkish troops already are firing artillery at Afrin from the border.

"Don't stand between us and these herd of murderers. Otherwise, we won't be responsible for the unwanted incidents that may arise," he said. "Tear off the insignia you have placed on the uniforms of the terrorists so that we don't have to bury them (U.S. soldiers) together with the terrorists."

A YPG spokesman in Afrin, Rojhat Roj, said Turkish reinforcements could be seen arriving at the border overnight. He said they removed parts of the wall already built along the border to allow in new equipment.

Russia said Monday that the new force is a sign Washington "doesn't want to preserve the territorial integrity of Syria." Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the nascent border force is "not helping calm the situation."

Moscow is a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Turkey supports the Syrian opposition. But they came together last year along with Iran, another Assad ally, to set up "de-escalation" zones that have reduced much of the fighting. Since then, Turkey's ties with Russia have warmed as relations with the U.S. have deteriorated.

Assad's government also condemned the U.S. plans for the border force, calling it "a blatant encroachment upon the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria," and a violation of international law.

UN team meets with Afghan officials in Kabul

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A top-level U.N. Security Council delegation that included U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley visited Kabul and met with the Afghan authorities, the government and the United Nations said Monday.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said he met with the U.N. team on Sunday and discussed Afghanistan's security situation and how to move the country forward. The statement says Ghani also requested continued U.N. pressure on neighboring Pakistan, which Kabul accuses of harboring Taliban insurgents. Islamabad denies the allegations.

According to the statement, along with Haley, representatives of China, Russia and Britain also took part in the meeting, which was not announced previously for security reasons.

President Donald Trump has taken a tough stand on Pakistan, which in turn has accused the U.S. of scapegoating Islamabad for its own failure to bring peace to Afghanistan where the war is

now entering its 17th year.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan — known as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA — said "the visit was an opportunity to reiterate the Security Council's support" for the efforts by the Afghan government and the people "to restore peace, stability and progress to the country" and to get a firsthand account of that process.

Ghani's statement said they also discussed "reconciliation, regional cooperation on the fight against terrorism, counternarcotics" and preparations for the upcoming parliamentary presidential elections in the country.

The meeting "stressed the need to view Afghanistan not as a threat to security in the region but as an important partner," the statement added.

"Council members reiterated their support for the government's reform initiatives, in particular to counter corruption and accelerate regional cooperation," the U.N. said.



ALI ABDUL HASSAN/AP

Iraqi security forces gather Monday at the scene of a double suicide bombing in Baghdad.

Double suicide bombing kills at least 38 in Baghdad

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
AND MURTADA FARAJ
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at a busy street market in central Baghdad on Monday in back-to-back explosions that killed at least 38 people, Iraqi health and police officials said — the deadliest attack since last month's declaration of victory over Islamic State.

The bombings came just two days after a suicide bomber struck a police checkpoint in northern Baghdad, killing eight people there.

No group so far has claimed responsibility for either attack but they bore all the hallmarks of ISIS, which has claimed many such attacks in the past.

Monday's bombers struck during rush hour in the city's Tayran Square, which is usually crowded by laborers seeking work. The twin explosions also wounded at least 150 people, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Ambulances rushed to the scene as security forces sealed off the area with yellow tape.

Slippers could be seen scattered about on the bloodstained pavement as cleaners hurried to clear the debris. Photographs posted on social media showed lifeless bodies and pieces of limbs.

The twin explosions shocked residents in the Iraqi capital because large attacks had decreased significantly in Baghdad and other parts of country since security forces retook nearly all territory once held by ISIS militants.

Munthir Falah, a vendor who sells secondhand clothes at the street market, survived Monday's attack with shrapnel injuries to his chest and right leg.

"It was tremendous. I felt the ground shaking under my feet," he said, describing the explosions to The Associated Press. "I fell on the ground and lost conscious (sic) to find myself later in the hospital."

Falah, a father of three, blamed the government forces for not doing enough to secure the capital and its residents.

"They think that Daesh is done with the territorial losses and they do not bother themselves to exert efforts to secure Baghdad," he said, using the Arabic name for ISIS.

Jalal Ali, owner of a mobile phone store, recounted how he saw bodies of some of those killed in the explosion lying on the street as he stepped off a minibus.

"Me (sic) and others on the bus were so shocked to see this," said Ali, adding that he sought shelter between nearby cars and walls. He said he expected such attacks after the government announced national elections for May.

"I'm sure they will increase," he said.

Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri denounced the attack as a "cowardly act against innocent people" and called on the government to take all necessary security measures.

Iraqi and U.S. officials have warned that ISIS would continue with insurgent-style attacks even after the Iraqi military and the U.S.-led coalition succeeded in uprooting ISIS across the country.

The cost of victory has been nearly incalculable as the three years of war against ISIS devastated much of northern and western Iraq — roughly a third of the country — where ISIS militants had held most of the territory.

Pakistan tells US envoy of anti-terrorism fight

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani officials have briefed a visiting senior U.S. diplomat on recent efforts to combat terrorism after President Donald Trump suspended security assistance to the longtime ally.

The Foreign Office said the delegation led by Acting Assistant

Secretary of State Alice Wells was briefed Monday on "recent counter-terrorism actions taken by Pakistan's law enforcement agencies that contributed to visible improvement in the security situation of Pakistan."

The statement said these actions "would also contribute towards peace and stability in the entire region."

U.S. officials have long accused Pakistan of harboring militant groups that carry out attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, charges denied by Islamabad. Earlier this month, the U.S. said it would suspend military aid until Pakistan takes decisive action against militants. The decision could affect up to \$2 billion in aid.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Calif. residents grieve, commit to rebuilding

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

MONTECITO, Calif. — At the end of a heartbreaking week that saw deadly mudslides kill at least 20, residents of Montecito gathered to grieve, pay tribute to victims and commit to rebuilding their cherished community on the Southern California coast.

Mourners lit prayer candles and left flowers at a makeshift memorial for the victims after shedding tears, giving hugs and offering prayers during the vigil outside the Santa Barbara County courthouse.

"I don't know about you, but I'm scared of Mother Nature right now," Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo told the attendees at the vigil.

Bethany Harris, who lives in Santa Barbara, brought her two young sons to the vigil because she wanted to make sure they understood the impact the devastating storm has had on the community.

"We all know someone who has been affected by this," she said. "We will heal together."

Before a moment of silence, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams read out the names of each of the 20 victims.

"Tonight, we need to mourn," he said. "Our community is going through something it has never gone through."

Those at the vigil included the family of Pinet Sutthithea, 30, whose body was discovered Sunday afternoon. His daughter, Lydia, 2, remained missing. His son, Peerawat, 6, nicknamed Pasta, and his father-in-law, Rich-



MIKE ELIASON, COURTESY OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (CALIF.) FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

Demolition workers break down boulders Sunday that are scattered throughout Montecito, Calif., following the deadly mudslides containing rocks and debris that struck the area Jan. 9.

ard Loring Taylor, 79, also were killed in the mudslides. Family members said they were too distraught to speak.

"This family is one of several that lost multiple family members," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "And we know that the suffering of those who knew and loved all of the victims is immense."

The list of those still missing in the mudslides has shrunk to four.

In the disaster area, firefighters went door to door on Sunday to check the structural stability

'We all know someone who has been affected by this. We will heal together.'

Bethany Harris
Santa Barbara, Calif., resident

of the houses damaged by a powerful rainstorm that preceded the mudslides, and they scoured what's left of toppled homes and mangled cars as they searched for the missing.

Search-and-rescue operations

ended Sunday, and authorities transitioned to a search-and-recovery phase, Brown said. The move allows officials to release resources that are no longer needed and allow search operations to slow to a safer pace, he said.

The storm sent flash floods cascading through mountain slopes that were burned bare by a huge wildfire in December. Workers used backhoes, jackhammers and chain saws to clear away masses of mud, boulders and toppled trees.

Crews have made it a priority to clear out debris basins and creek canals before another rainstorm. Long-range forecasts gave the crews about a week before the next chance of rain — and potential new mudslides — although the precipitation was expected to be disorganized and light. Another system was possible two days later.

The mudslides on Jan. 9 ravaged the tiny community, destroying at least 65 homes and damaging more than 460 others, officials said.

They also forced the indefinite shutdown of U.S. 101, the only major freeway between Santa Barbara and points east.

The rest of the community's infrastructure also was damaged. Some streets were cracked in half, and authorities closed bridges and overpasses because they were unstable. Amtrak said it was adding rail cars to each of its five daily round-trip trains between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara to accommodate commuters grappling with the ongoing closure of U.S. 101.

Despite the damage in the neighborhood, Montecito residents still have hope their community will recover.

"I've re-audited, but they find ways to try to live life as normally as they can," Williams said.

DC area gets 2nd Catholic basilica

By MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Washington area is already home to the country's largest Catholic church, the dramatic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Now, the Vatican has designated for the region a second basilica, this time a 223-year-old congregation in Northern Virginia whose first donor was George Washington.

The Rev. Michael Burbidge, bishop of the Diocese of Arlington — which covers northeastern Virginia, including the District of Columbia's busy suburbs — announced the news at the historic St. Mary Catholic Church.

The parish will now be called "The Basilica of Saint Mary" and



MATT McCLAIN/The Washington Post

The historic St. Mary Catholic Church is in Alexandria, Va.

will likely attract Catholic tourists as a result of its new designation and seal.

St. Mary is now the 84th "minor basilica" in the United States, structures honored for special attributes that can be architectural, historical or geographical.

That means that in the eyes of the Vatican, St. Mary has the same standing as the National Shrine, which attracts thousands to Washington each year.

"It's a huge honor for Alexandria, which isn't known as a

Catholic town. This certainly puts us on the map," said Ken Wolfe, a parishioner at St. Mary.

The church's four "major" basilicas are all in Rome. According to the Arlington diocese, St. Mary was founded in 1795 at a different location, and it was the first Catholic parish in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

George Washington made the first financial contribution to the parish in the late 1700s, giving an amount equivalent to \$1,200 today, the diocese said in a statement.

Washington Metro train with 63 aboard derails

By LORI ARATANI
AND FAIZ SIDDIQUI
The Washington Post

A Washington Metro red line train carrying 63 people derailed early Monday just outside the Farragut North station in the District of Columbia, Metro officials said.

One passenger was evaluated for shortness of breath, but there were no injuries, authorities said.

The derailment occurred just after 6:30 a.m. after the train bound for Shady Grove, Md., left the Metro Center station in Washington, according to Metro spokesman Dan Stessel. He could not say which or how many of the eight cars derailed but said the train was a 7000 series, the newest in the transit agency's fleet.

The cause is under investigation. The National Transportation Safety Board is monitoring the situation but has not sent anyone to the scene, officials said.

Stessel said the 63 people on the train included 61 passengers, a Metro police officer and the train operator. The number was relatively light for a Monday com-

mute because the government and many companies were closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

District of Columbia fire department spokesman Doug Buchanan said the 61 passengers were evacuated within the Metro tunnels, walking about 2,000 feet from the derailment site to Metro Center station. Third-rail power was taken down, he said.

Buchanan said the initial call was for possible smoke on the tracks at the Farragut North station, but the fire department found no signs of a fire around the derailment. The train's rear rail cars appeared to have come off the tracks, he said. He could not say how many.

Stessel said the train operator is cooperating with investigators and will be subject to standard post-incident alcohol and drug screenings. He could not say how much experience the operator had, only that he was male.

The derailment also drew the attention of members of the Virginia delegation. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., tweeted that the incident was not more serious.

NATION

'El Chapo' godson pleads guilty over role in drug cartel

By KRISTINA DAVIS

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A man considered to be the highest-ranking Mexican cartel leader to self-surrender to the U.S. pleaded guilty in federal court in San Diego to a scheme to distribute and import methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine to the U.S., authorities said.

Damaso Lopez-Serrano, 29, is believed to be the godson of Sinaloa drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. In his plea, Lopez-Serrano admitted to being a leader in the cartel, acting as a major coordinator of moving drugs into the U.S. and importing narcotics across the border. He also admitted to possessing guns for his cartel duties.

Lopez-Serrano faces a mandatory sentence of at least 10 years in prison, and he has agreed to forfeit \$1 million in cash.

Lopez-Serrano, also known as "Mini Lic," gets his nickname from his father, Damaso Lopez Nunez, also known as "El Licenciado." The father, also reputed to be in the cartel's leadership, is in Mexican custody awaiting extradition to the U.S.

Lopez-Serrano pleaded guilty last week to all charges in the indictment, as well as to a cocaine distribution conspiracy charge out of Virginia that also names his father. He presented himself to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Calexico West Port of Entry on July 27. News reports out of Mexico said authorities there had been hunting for him in Mexicali at the time.

Lopez-Serrano, who once enjoyed a close relationship with Guzman's sons, was said to be in the middle of a power struggle within the cartel after his father fought them for control of the organization.

About a dozen people arrested for feeding homeless in Calif. park

By LINDSAY WINKLEY

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — Police officers in California arrested about a dozen people for feeding the homeless at a city park Sunday afternoon.

The event was organized by a group called Break the Ban, which formed after the El Cajon City Council unanimously passed an emergency ordinance prohibiting the distribution of food on any city-owned property.

City officials said the ordinance was a way to protect the public from hepatitis A, but critics have called it a punitive measure to dehumanize and criminalize the homeless.

Mark Lane, one of the event's organizers, said about 12 to 15 people were passing out food and toiletries to the homeless at Wells Park on East Madison Avenue when police arrived.

About 40 more people, including several lawyers, also were there, but were not actively passing out food. Some of those who weren't behind the food-laden tables carried signs that had slogans such as "Feeding the hungry is not a crime."

Although the event was intended to feed members of the homeless, the gathering also was part of the group's plan to legally contest the ordinance.

"It was absolutely necessary to break this law until they were willing to enforce it, and, now

that they have, we will continue this fight in court," said another organizer, Shane Parmley.

It's a familiar legal strategy that played a critical role during the civil rights movement and other social justice movements, Parmley said.

The arrests began about 3:40 p.m.

According to a video she shared on Facebook, a police officer explained to the crowd that the City of San Diego had banned the sharing of food on public property.

"This park is part of city property, so you aren't allowed to food share," said the officer in the video. "... If you guys continue to food share, then you guys are subject to arrest, all right?"

Everyone who was handing food out was given a misdemeanor citation, including a 14-year-old. In the video, one officer can be heard explaining the arrest was for failing to comply with a municipal ordinance as well as an emergency order recently passed by the city.

Lane said Break the Ban will continue to organize events to feed the city's homeless. Sunday's event was the second hosted by the group. They also have partnered with a second group called Food Not Bombs that also has hosted two food-sharing events.

"Our goal is to get the ban overturned and sit down and figure out how to humanely deal with something that's not going away," Lane said.



PROVIDED BY PASCO COUNTY (FLA.) FIRE RESCUE/AP

Flames engulf a boat Sunday in Florida's Tampa Bay area.

Woman dies after fire on shuttle boat off Fla. coast

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A female passenger died hours after a casino shuttle boat caught fire off Florida's Gulf Coast, forcing her and about 50 other passengers and crewmembers to jump into the chilly waters to escape.

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point spokesman Kurt Conover said Monday that the woman died late Sunday, shortly after she arrived at the hospital's emergency room at 10 p.m. He said she apparently had gone home after the fire but came ill.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kevin Doll said the victim was 42. Her name has not been released and a cause of death has not been determined. Conover said eight other passengers were treated at the hospital and were released.

Port Richey police said 15 people were injured in the fire. Officials originally said no injuries were life-threatening.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Michael DeNyse said investigators will determine the cause of the fire and will examine the history of the boat and the company, Tropical Breeze Casino.

Tropical Breeze Casino Cruise spokeswoman Beth Fifer said

Monday that the company "was deeply saddened" by the death of the passenger. She said there had never been any issues with the boat, which was destroyed by the fast-moving fire.

The shuttle boat routinely carries people back and forth from the Tropical Breeze's offshore casino. It is located offshore because it can't legally operate close to land.

The shuttle boat caught fire about 4 p.m. Sunday and was quickly engulfed close to shore near residential neighborhoods.

Port Richey Police Chief Gerard DeCanio said the shuttle boat experienced engine problems after leaving the dock at Port Richey, a suburban community about 35 miles northwest of Tampa. As the vessel turned back, flames kicked up and people began jumping overboard into shallow water, according to witness accounts.

Larry Santangelo, 57, said he had just driven into his neighborhood when he saw smoke and fire and thought a house — possibly his own — was ablaze. Then he realized it was the boat about 100 yards offshore.

He told the Tampa Bay Times that he then saw people wander-

ing about, confused, wet and cold, after they reached land. One woman collapsed upon reaching shore and vomited, he said. Santangelo said he took about 30 of the passengers into his garage to warm up and to recover.

"It was so windy and they were soaking wet," said Santangelo.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire, which sent a huge plume of dark, black smoke wafting over sunny skies on an unusually chilly winter day in the Tampa Bay region.

"It looked pretty dramatic because the shuttle boat burned really fast," DeCanio told The Associated Press by phone.

Another witness told the Tampa Bay Times the shuttle boat passes regularly by his family's home, carrying patrons to and from a casino ship offshore. He knew something was wrong when smoke cut across the skies and he heard shouts and screams.

"They didn't have much time to decide whether or not to jump," said Bakr Jandali, 19, who was with his family at home nearby when they heard the commotion. "The fire was moving fast. It was a hard jump."

Pregnant teen who sued over abortion released

WASHINGTON — A pregnant immigrant teenager who told a judge that she was being prevented from having an abortion while in federal custody has been released, giving her the ability to obtain the procedure.

The Trump administration said in a court filing Sunday that the 17-year-old had been released to a "sponsor," an adult who is usually a family member.

The teen, who hasn't been identified by name, was the fourth pregnant immigrant teenager represented by the ACLU to go to court over the Department of Health and Human Services' pol-

icy of refusing to facilitate abortions for minors in its custody. The ACLU called her an "unaccompanied minor," suggesting she was detained while trying to enter the U.S.

A judge previously sided with the other teens represented by the ACLU.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Trump again defends himself against charges he is racist

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump is defending himself anew against accusations that he is racist, this time after recent disparaging comments about Haiti and African nations.

"No. No. I'm not a racist," Trump said Sunday, after reporters asked him to respond to those who think he is. "I am the least racist person you have ever interviewed. That I can tell you."

Trump also denied making the statements attributed to him, but avoided the details of what he did or did not say.

"Did you see what various senators in the room said about my comments?" he asked, referring to lawmakers who were meeting with him in the Oval Office on Thursday when Trump is said to have made the comments. "They weren't made."

Trump stands accused of using "shit-hole" to describe African countries during an immigration meeting with a bipartisan group of six senators. The president, in the meeting, also questioned the need to admit more Haitians to

the U.S., according to people who were briefed on the conversation but were not authorized to describe the meeting publicly.

Trump said in the meeting that he would prefer immigrants from countries like Norway instead.

The White House has not denied that Trump said "shit-hole" though Trump has already pushed back on some depictions of the meeting.

A confidant of Trump's told The Associated Press that the president spent Thursday evening calling friends and outside advisers to judge their reaction to his remarks.

Trump wasn't apologetic and denied he was racist, instead blaming the media for distorting his meaning, said the confidant, who wasn't authorized to disclose a private conversation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sen. Dick Durbin, of Illinois, the only Democrat at Trump's meeting, said Trump had indeed said what he was reported to have said. Durbin said the remarks were "vile, hate-filled and clearly racial in their content."

Trump commented as Durbin was presenting details of a compromise immigration plan that in-

cluded providing \$1.6 billion for a first installment of the president's long-sought border wall.

Trump took particular issue with the idea that people who'd fled to the U.S. after disasters hit their homes in places such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti would be allowed to stay as part of the deal, according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly describe the discussion.

When it came to talk of extending protections for Haitians, Durbin said Trump replied, "We don't need more Haitians."

"He said, 'Put me down for wanting more Europeans to come to this country. Why don't we get more people from Norway?'" Durbin said.

Republican Sens. David Perdue, of Georgia, and Tom Cotton, of Arkansas, who also attended the meeting, initially said in a statement Friday that they "do not recall the president saying these comments specifically." On Sunday, they backtracked and challenged other senators' descriptions of the remarks.

Perdue described as a "gross misrepresentation" reports that



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

President Donald Trump, accompanied by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks to members of the media in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Sunday.

Trump used the vulgarity. He said Durbin and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, were mistaken in indicating that was the case. Graham also attended the meeting.

Trump has defended himself against accusations of being a racist on numerous occasions, including during his insistence that President Barack Obama was not American-born and after he opened his presidential campaign in 2015 by describing Mexicans as rapists and drug peddlers.

Word of Trump's comments

threatened to upend delicate negotiations over resolving the status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who were brought to the country illegally as children.

Trump announced last year that he will end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, unless lawmakers come up with a solution by March.

The program shielded these immigrants, often referred to as "Dreamers," from deportation and granted them permits to work.

Democrats hopeful, GOP worried about midterm elections

By KEVIN FREKING AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Buoyed by a string of Republican retirements and President Donald Trump's persistently low approval rating, Democrats are increasingly hopeful about their chances for a midterm election wave that would give them control of the House and deliver a blow to the president.

The number of Republicans bowing out rather than bearing down for tough races is the latest worrisome sign for the GOP. Combine that with Trump's ability to unite Democrats in opposition and historical headwinds, and some Democrats are optimistic.

"We don't have an Obama figure energizing us; we have Trump energizing us," said Democratic Rep. Gerald Connolly, of Virginia, as he described standing-room-only gatherings at local Democratic events. "Who is the D? Show me who the D is, so I can ride with them," he said of voter sentiments. "I think it's shaping up into that kind of election."

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, of New Mexico, who is leading Democrats' House campaign effort, said there is a "clear path to a majority," something he said he never saw in 2016.

Indeed, Trump's job approval rating — a key indicator in midterm elections — lags below 40 percent in most polls, and marks for Congress are half that. Since Trump's inauguration, Democrats have won state legislative elections across the country, reclaimed the Virginia governor's seat by a surprising 9 percentage-point margin and managed an upset Senate victory in GOP-dominated Alabama, albeit with the help of a Republican nominee accused of sexual misconduct with teenage girls.

The next test is in Pennsylvania, where a March special election to replace Republican Rep. Tim Murphy, who resigned amid allegations he asked a



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

The U.S. Capitol is seen Dec. 22 in Washington. Democrats are hopeful about their chances for a midterm election wave.

woman he was having an affair with to get an abortion, will become another test of momentum. Trump is expected to campaign for the Republican candidate, state Rep. Rick Saccone.

Altogether, 31 House Republicans have announced their retirements so far, ahead of a typical election-year pace and giving rise to comparisons with 1994, 2006 and 2010, the last three times that voters flipped control of the chamber.

Ohio Rep. Steve Stivers, who heads the GOP's House campaign operation, said he believes the retirement run is near its end, but he and other Republicans concede that the later the retirements, the harder it is for candidates to step in and build the campaigns necessary to win.

National Democrats, meanwhile, are targeting 91 House districts — a list that covers nearly all the GOP vacancies — and they say they have "viable" candidates in 87 of those districts.

Democrats are leading by double digits in many "generic ballot" polls, which ask voters whether they prefer a Democratic or a Republican congressional candidate. Pollsters say such a national generic ballot lead is likely enough to overcome GOP advantages from gerrymandering.

Former Trump campaign manager expects to testify in Russia probe this week

By MIKE DeBONIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Corey Lewandowski, President Donald Trump's former campaign manager, said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he will give testimony this week to a House committee probing Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Lewandowski said on WABC-AM radio in New York that he expects to appear before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on Wednesday or Thursday to discuss the campaign. He told host Rita Crosby that he has not been contacted by Justice Department investigators led by special counsel Robert Mueller, who are conducting a parallel investigation.

"I will be fully prepared to answer any question about my tenure at the Trump campaign," he said, according to a transcript published by WABC. "I didn't collude or cooperate or coordinate with any Russian, Russian agency, Russian government or anybody else, to try and impact this election. I'll be happy to come out and set the record straight about my lack of involvement with any type of foreign entity."

Aides to the leaders of the House

committee did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The Republican majority has conducted a flurry of interviews over the past two months in a bid to wrap up the probe.

But Democrats on the panel say their Republican colleagues are moving too quickly and have been unwilling to interview numerous relevant witnesses and pursue key leads. The two sides appear headed in opposite directions — with Republicans focused on allegations of FBI malfeasance that could have harmed Trump and Democrats focused on exposing the GOP's failure to fully investigate the Trump campaign.

Lewandowski — who is promoting his book about the Trump campaign, "Let Trump Be Trump" — would not say whether Trump ought to sit down with Mueller or other investigators.

"I would say, listen to your attorneys," Lewandowski said, adding, "There's no question to me, that if he were to sit down and tell that team exactly what took place, and I was there for it, they will come to the same conclusion that everybody else has already come to, which is: There is no collusion."

NATION

Something special on the pillows for new Va. governor

By LAURA VOZZELLA
The Washington Post

RICHMOND, Va. — The peaceful transfer of power in Virginia would not be complete without a prank pulled by the outgoing governor on his successor.

So it was that as newly inaugurated Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam hit the sack Saturday night after his inauguration, he found something special on his pillowcase — and it was not one of those fancy hotel good-night chocolates.

An image of former Gov. Terry McAuliffe was plastered on his pillowcase, emblazoned with one of the go-go-go ex-governor's favorite sayings: "Sleep when you're dead."

And yes, Virginia's 73rd governor — and his wife, first lady Pam Northam — spent their first night in the mansion with their heads resting on the 72nd's governor's grinning mug.

"Let me show you the picture," Northam said, pulling out his cellphone after a brunch hosted by

the first lady Sunday at Richmond's Jefferson Hotel. The pillowcases are not the only reminders McAuliffe left behind. "There are pictures of the governor all over the mansion that he left for me," Northam said. "Also, at 3 o'clock this morning, an alarm clock went off which I have yet to find."

Ralph Northam, governor of Virginia, said, "Also, at 3 o'clock this morning, an alarm clock went off which I have yet to find. I texted him and thanked him, and he said there was more to come."



Courtesy of Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam

Virginia's newly inaugurated Gov. Ralph Northam and his wife found pillowcases emblazoned with former Gov. Terry McAuliffe's face and a favorite saying on their bed in the governor's mansion.

The alarm clock trick is not a new one, but certain pranks are bound to get recycled in the only U.S. state where the governorship changes hands every four years. Departing Republican Gov. Robert McDonnell set one to go off at 4 a.m. four years ago, giving McAuliffe a jolt on his first weekend in the executive mansion.

Another surprise awaited the newly sworn-in McAuliffe when he got to his office: a huge stuffed bear in the private bathroom. It was not a teddy bear. It was the real, taxidermied thing, poached from the office of McDonnell's natural resources secretary, Doug Domenech.

On his way out of the governor-

ship in 2010, now-Sen. Tim Kaine hid cellphones in the mansion elevator shaft and periodically called them as a trick on McDonnell. It took a few days for McDonnell's team to locate them.

Before that, now-Sen. Mark Warner left a life-sized cutout of himself in the governor's mansion shower for Kaine.

Roof caves in during arena renovations

The Washington Post

The roof of Merriweather Post Pavilion, one of the Washington region's best known outdoor entertainment venues, crashed to the ground early Saturday as it was in the last stages of being raised to a new position.

No injuries were reported in the collapse at the amphitheater in Columbia, Md. Work on the roof was part of a five-year renovation project.

The roof, which covered both the stage and seating, was being lifted hydraulically over a period of months, officials from the pavilion said in a statement. On Saturday morning, it was in its near-final position, and all that remained was to put it in its permanent place.

However, at about 2:30 a.m. the roof "unexpectedly fell," said the statement posted on Twitter.

"Of course, we will rebuild — and the 2018 season will start as planned," it said, adding that the reason for the collapse was being assessed.



Rob Griffin/AP

Becca Pizzi, of Belmont, Mass., holds an American flag in January 2016 after winning the seventh and final leg of the World Marathon Challenge in Sydney, Australia.

Mass. woman aspiring to repeat World Marathon feat

Associated Press

BOSTON — A Massachusetts marathoner is racing to become the only person on the planet to have run seven marathons in seven days on all seven continents — twice.

Becca Pizzi, 37, won the World Marathon Challenge in her first attempt in 2016.

Now, the Belmont woman is preparing to tackle the odyssey again. If she completes it, she'll become the first to repeat the feat.

The single mother starts the challenge on Jan. 30 by running the full 26.2-mile marathon distance in Antarctica. She'll then run back-to-back marathons on successive days in South Africa, Australia, the United Arab Emirates, Portugal and Colombia, finishing in Miami on Feb. 5.

Pizzi and 54 other competitors will cross 16 time zones and endure wildly disparate temperatures and terrain.

"Antarctica is the most intimidating," Pizzi said. "The wind is fierce. The sun is blinding. There are crevices you can fall through. It's bitterly cold, though actually not much colder than Boston has

been lately. There's also no internet — no way to call home. You're in a different world down there. We'll cross 16 time zones — that's tough — and we'll go straight from zero degrees Fahrenheit in Antarctica to 80 degrees in Cape Town (South Africa)."

When asked about the challenge's biggest thrills, Pizzi said it will be that her daughter, Taylor, 10, "will be at the finish line in Miami to run in. She's my biggest inspiration to get to the finish as fast as I can. I'll also have friends and family on every continent. My friends are so loyal and loving and supportive of my dreams. Whatever I need — a banana, an Advil, a hug — they'll be there for me."

Pizzi said if the locations change, she'd like to run the challenge a third time.

"I'm currently trying to run a marathon in all 50 states — I've done 33 so far — and this year I ran the Volcano Marathon in Chile at an altitude of 15,000 feet. I'd like to run the Ironman triathlon world championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. ... It's on my bucket list," she said.



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NATION



JEFF MARTIN/AP

The Rev. Raphael Warnock, shown Thursday in Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, is senior pastor of the congregation once led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

MLK still inspires nearly 50 years after death

By JEFF MARTIN
AND ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Though his voice was silenced nearly 50 years ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of nonviolence still resonates and inspires.

Decades ago, the famed civil rights leader — also regarded as one of America's greatest orators — recalled driving one night from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Tenn., with his brother A.D. at the wheel. Most cars in the opposite lane failed to dim their lights, and his brother angrily vowed to keep his bright lights on in retaliation. "And I looked at him right quick and said, 'Oh no, don't do that. There'd be too much light on this highway, and it will end up in mutual destruction for all. Somebody got to have some sense on this highway,'" King told the congregation at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., during a 1957 sermon.

"Somebody must have sense enough to dim the lights, and that is the trouble, isn't it?" King told the congregation. "That as all of the civilizations of the world move up the highway of history, so many civilizations, having looked at other civilizations that refused to dim the lights, and they decid-

ed to refuse to dim theirs."

More than a half-century later, in a world full of contentious politics, one of King's memorable quotes remains relevant. It's from his book "Strength to Love," first published in 1963:

"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."

The Associated Press asked a half-dozen people in the cities where he was born and where he died to consider his words and to talk about what they mean for today's world.

Some were interviewed in Atlanta, home to King's Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation and his office, where Xerxona Clayton organized protest marches and fundraisers.

Others reflected on the quote in Memphis, in front of the Lorraine

Motel balcony where King was assassinated April 4, 1968.

"When he says, 'Hate cannot drive out hate; only light can do that,' it recognizes that to be bitter about your circumstance is one thing. To retaliate based on your circumstance is quite another," said Terri Lee Freeman, president of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, at the site of the old Lorraine Motel. "So, Dr. King reminds us that it is usually through love — actionable love — that we are able to make change."

"In order to fulfill a dream, it's going to take a team that's going to demonstrate love and not hate," said Cleophus Smith.

Smith was one of the sanitation workers who went on strike in 1968 after two of his co-workers were killed by a malfunctioning garbage truck. King was in Memphis to support the sanitation workers' strike when he was slain at the Lorraine Motel.

"You think about the grand scheme of things; you can't fight hate with hate in the world we live in today. You can't fight violence with violence," said Mike Conley, a guard for the Memphis Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association. "Violent people come and want to inflict hurt on somebody, you can't come back and



ADRIAN SAINZ/AP

Cleophus Smith, one of the Memphis sanitation workers who went on strike for better working conditions and higher pay in 1968, stands Jan. 9 in front of the balcony of the Lorraine Motel where King was fatally shot in Memphis, Tenn.

do the same to them. Otherwise, we're in this never-ending spiral that we're in the middle of right now."

"This is a time of moral reckoning in our nation" said the Rev. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. "We must choose to stand on the side of light and love."

"We have to stand up as Americans and say that we will stand on behalf of the poor, the marginalized, those who experience discrimination both historically, and presently," he added. "This

is our time; this is our moment to decide what kind of nation we want to be."

"He talked about love and hate so effectively," said Clayton, King's office manager in Atlanta. "Dr. King really hated no one."

"He loved everyone, he really did. He practiced it, and he preached it."

"So when he talks about what hate does versus what love does, it's so applicable to today," she said. "We have to drive out hate any way we can. We have to strengthen love any way we can."

NATION

Guns or ganja? Armed pot fans have to choose

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The federal government says grass and guns don't mix, and that is putting gun owners who use marijuana — and the strongly pro-gun rights administration of President Donald Trump — in a potentially uncomfortable position.

As gun-loving Pennsylvania becomes the latest state to operate a medical marijuana program, with the first dispensary on track to begin sales next month, authorities are warning patients that federal law bars marijuana users from having guns or ammunition.

"They're going to have to make a choice," said John T. Adams, president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. "They can have their guns or their marijuana, but not both."

That's the official line, but the reality of how the policy might be enforced in Pennsylvania and other states is a little muddier. That includes the question of whether people who already own guns might have to surrender them, instead of just being prohibited from making new purchases.

The political sensitivity was underscored Friday when Pennsylvania regulators reversed themselves and announced its registry of medical pot patients will not be available, as was previously planned, through the state's law enforcement computer network.

Phil Gruver, a professional auto detailer from Emmaus who received a state medical marijuana card in mid-December, is weighing what to do with his .22-caliber rifle and a handgun he keeps for home defense.

"It's a violation of my Second Amendment rights," Gruver said. "I don't know of anytime anyone's been using marijuana and going out and committing acts of violence with a gun. Most of the time they just sit on their couch and eat pizza."

State laws allowing medical or recreational use of pot have long been at odds with the federal prohibition on gun ownership by those using marijuana. But the government has traditionally taken a hands-off approach. Since 2014, Congress has forbidden the Department of Justice from spending money to prosecute people who grow, sell and use medical pot.

The picture has become murkier under Trump, a Republican whose attorney general, Jeff Sessions, has long denounced the drug. Sessions recently rescinded a Barack Obama-era policy that was deferential to states' permis-

'I don't know of anytime anyone's been using marijuana and going out and committing acts of violence with a gun. Most of the time they just sit on their couch and eat pizza.'

Phil Gruver

a Pennsylvania resident who owns guns and has a medical marijuana card

sive marijuana laws. Now, federal prosecutors in states that allow drug sales must decide whether to crack down on the marijuana trade.

It's not clear what impact the new policy will have on gun owners who use cannabis as medicine, or even how many people fit the bill. Nor is it clear whether any people who use legally obtained medical marijuana have been prosecuted for owning a gun, although the existence of medical marijuana registries in some states, including Pennsylvania, has some patients concerned.

More than 800,000 guns are sold or transferred in Pennsylvania annually, and more than 10,000 people in the state have signed up for medical marijuana. The registry change on Friday makes it much less likely the state's medical marijuana users will be flagged when going through a federal gun sales background check.

A spokeswoman for Dave Freed, the new U.S. attorney in Harrisburg, said only that criminal investigations and prosecutions "will be based on a fair and transparent fact-intensive inquiry of individual cases." State police said it's up to prosecutors to decide when to bring a case.

The Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has left no doubt where it stands. Last year, the ATF spelled out the marijuana prohibition in boldface type on gun purchase forms.

"Any person who uses or is addicted to marijuana, regardless of whether his or her state has passed legislation authorizing marijuana use for medical purposes ... is prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition," ATF spokeswoman Janice L. Kemp said in an email



MATT ROURKE/AP

Phil Gruver shows his medical marijuana card in Emmaus, Pa. Authorities in Pennsylvania are warning medical marijuana patients that federal law bars marijuana users from having guns or ammunition, and Gruver is weighing what to do with his .22-caliber rifle and handgun.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

A bud tender prepares marijuana for a customer at Med Men, a marijuana dispensary in West Hollywood, Calif.

to The Associated Press.

A spokeswoman for the Justice Department referred questions about medical marijuana and guns enforcement to local federal prosecutors and a recent memo from Sessions that does not specifically address the issue.

In Ohio, which has authorized a medical marijuana program, the office of the U.S. attorney for the northern part of the state, Justin Herdman, has said Sessions' guidance won't change his case-by-case approach.

The gun-ownership ban has withstood at least one legal challenge. An appeals court in San Francisco, rejecting a challenge on Second Amendment grounds, said in 2016 that Congress reasonably concluded marijuana and other drugs raise the risk of unpredictable behavior.

Meanwhile, some state and local officials, particularly in law enforcement, have sought to crack down.

William Bryson, chairman of the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council, told state lawmakers in December that people who use marijuana for medical or recreational purposes should be required to have a designation on their driver's licenses. That would make it easier, he said, for police to enforce the ban.

And last month, a police chief in Hawaii publicized and then quickly rescinded a directive that medical marijuana patients had to give up their handguns. Two people turned in their weapons.

Marijuana activists predict a backlash should federal prosecutors begin going after gun owners who use legally obtained medical

marijuana.

The issue has been largely theoretical, but there would be quick pushback if the federal government took a more aggressive stance, said Paul Armentano, deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Between 1998 and 2014, nearly 100,000 prospective gun purchasers went home empty-handed because they were flagged as using illegal drugs, according to the ATF. But the agency could not say how many of those used medical or recreational marijuana.

Dean Hazen, an Urbana, Ill., businessman who helps broker online gun purchases, said a 75-year-old client with a medical marijuana card was turned down when his state firearm-owner identification card was run through the federal background check system.

"He's got a collection of guns at home," Hazen said, "and he's a model citizen."

Even before his administration took the medical marijuana registry off the Pennsylvania law enforcement computer network, Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, sought to assure people the state has no plans to take their guns. And last week, state House Republican Leader Dave Reed urged residents to call their congressional representative and "urge them to make gun ownership legal for medical marijuana card holders."

Kim Stoffer, head of the Pennsylvania organization Firearms Owners Against Crime, pointed out that people who drink heavily or use potent but legal drugs such as opioids or antidepressants can still own a gun.

"You have people that are advancing up in age that need medical marijuana and might have, say, 50 firearms and just realized they sacrificed all of those," Stoffer said. "Where are they going to turn them in and how are they going to get rid of them?"

WORLD



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT/AP

A rescue ship sails near the burning Iranian oil tanker Sanchi off the eastern coast of China on Sunday.

Fire from sunken tanker burns out

By Christopher DeBoken
Associated Press

BEIJING — The fire from a sunken Iranian tanker ship in the East China Sea has burned out, a Chinese Transport Ministry spokesman said Monday, although concerns remain about possible major pollution to the sea bed and surrounding waters.

The spokesman, who identified himself only by his surname, Zhao, said the fire ceased around noon. Earlier footage showed huge clouds of thick smoke rising from the oil slick that had been burning for more than a week.

Just three bodies from the tanker Sanchi's crew of 32, composed of 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis, have been recovered.

The cause of the Jan. 6 collision between the Sanchi and the Chinese freighter CF Crystal, which happened 16 miles east of Shanghai, remains unclear. All 21 crewmembers aboard the freighter were found safe.

Rescuers boarded the Sanchi on Saturday morning to recover two bodies, but an explosion shook the ship around noon Sunday, and it sank within hours. High temperatures had prevented rescuers

from entering the crew quarters. Another body was recovered from the water last week.

The ship was carrying a type of hydrocarbon liquid known as natural gas condensate and left a 3.8-square-mile area contaminated with oil, according to Chinese authorities. Condensate is highly toxic but readily evaporates or burns off in a fire. If trapped underwater, however, it could seriously harm the marine environment, while the ship's fuel source also poses a major threat.

The ship's voice data recorder, which functions like a "black box" on aircraft, was reportedly recovered Saturday, possibly helping shed light on how the collision and resulting fire occurred.

Zhao, who is deputy head of the ministry's press office, said new photos and video footage showed the fire had gone out entirely and said an investigation into the disaster would be conducted according to the "strictest international standards."

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said rescue operations had been converted at noon to a search-and-recovery effort. Two ships were on the scene spraying foam detergents to dissolve oil re-

maining on the surface.

The disaster has transfixed an Iran still reeling from days of protests and unrest that swept the country at the start of the year.

Families of the sailors wept and screamed at the headquarters of the National Iranian Tanker Co. in Tehran, the company that owns the Sanchi. Some needed to be taken by ambulance to nearby hospitals.

State TV earlier quoted Mahmoud Rastad, the chief of Iran's maritime agency, as saying, "There is no hope of finding survivors among the (missing) 29 members of the crew."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei both expressed their condolences, with Rouhani calling on relevant government agencies to investigate the tragedy and take any necessary legal measures. The government also announced Monday as a nationwide day of public mourning over the disaster.

Chinese officials blamed poor weather for complicating their rescue efforts. Thirteen ships, including one from South Korea and two from Japan, had joined in the rescue and cleanup effort.

Pope set to begin visit to Chile amid tensions, protests

By Nicole Winfield
and Eva Vergara
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Pope Francis' visit to Chile was always going to be fraught, but it has taken on an unprecedented degree of opposition with the firebombings of Catholic churches ahead of his Monday arrival and protests by Chileans fed up with priest sex abuse and cover-ups.

Francis is coming to a country where around 60 percent of Chileans declare themselves to be Roman Catholics, but where the church has lost the influence and moral authority it once enjoyed thanks to sex scandals, secularization and an out-of-touch clerical caste.

The pope will try to reverse the trend during his three-day visit, which gets underway in earnest Tuesday with a series of protocol visits for church and state, and will be followed by a three-day trip to neighboring Peru.

In Chile, he plans sessions with migrants, members of Chile's Mapuche indigenous group and victims of the 1973-90 dictatorship. It remains to be seen if he will meet with sex abuse survivors. A meeting isn't on the agenda, but such encounters never are.

Chile's church earned respect during the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet because it spoke out against the military's human rights abuses, but it began a downward spiral in 2010 when victims of a charismatic, politically connected priest alleged he had kissed and fondled them.

Local church leaders had ignored the complaints against the Rev. Fernando Karadima for years, but they were forced to open an investigation after the victims went public and prosecutors started investigating. The Vatican in 2011 sentenced Karadima to a lifetime of "penance and prayer" for his crimes, but the church leadership hasn't won back Chileans' trust for having covered up Karadima's crimes for so long.

Chile's ambassador to the Holy See, Mariano Fernandez Amunategui, and others inside the

Vatican speak openly of a Chilean church "in crisis" as a result of the scandal, a remarkable admission of the toll the scandal has had on a church that wielded such political clout that it helped stave off laws legalizing divorce and abortion until recently.

Chileans' disenchantment has even affected their views of the pope himself. A recent survey by Latinobarometro, a respected regional polling firm, found that Chile had lower esteem for his first Latin American pope than 18 other Central and South American countries. Even among Chilean Catholics, only 42 percent approve of the job Francis is doing, compared with a regional average of 68 percent.

Latinobarometro's Marta Lagos said: "The Chilean church leaders hoped that the Vatican would give its verdict — they didn't want to be the ones to accuse Karadima. On the contrary, there was a sort of cover-up and a hiding of the cases."

Francis, who has insisted he has "zero tolerance" for abuse, reopened wounds when in 2015 he named one of Karadima's proteges as bishop of the southern diocese of Osorno. Karadima's vicar said Bishop Osorno knew about the abuse but did nothing, a charge Barros denies.

Last week, The Associated Press reported Francis had told Chile's bishops that the Vatican was so concerned about the Karadima fallout that it had planned to ask Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops to resign and take a year sabbatical. But the plan fell through, and Francis went through with the appointment of Barros to Osorno, where the controversy has badly divided the diocese.

Several concerned Catholics from Osorno have traveled to Santiago where they have staged small protests in recent days.

Separately, vandals firebombed a handful of Santiago churches and warehouses, but Francis would be next. Never before has such violence and opposition greeted Francis ahead of a foreign visit.

acute angle only a few meters away from the Black Sea. All passengers and crew were evacuated and no one was injured.

The private Dogan news agency said Monday the pilots told investigators that the plane landed normally but that the engine's sudden increase in speed caused them to lose control.

Authorities at Trabzon Airport on Monday were making preparations to tow the plane off the slope.

From The Associated Press

Thousands flee lava flow from Philippine volcano

Associated Press

LEGAZIPI, Philippines — Nearly 15,000 people have fled from villages around the Philippines' most active volcano as lava flowed down its crater Monday in a gentle eruption that scientists warned could turn explosive.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology increased the alert level for Mount Mayon late Sunday to 3 on a scale of 5, indicating an increased prospect of a hazardous eruption "within weeks or even days."

Lava flowed less than half a mile down a gully from the crater on Monday morning, and ash clouds appeared mid-slope as lava fragments rolled down, said Renato Solidum, who heads the volcano institute. It was hard to track down the lava flow given the thick clouds shrouding the volcano.

Molten rocks and lava at Mayon's crater lit the night sky Sunday in a reddish-orange glow despite the thick cloud cover, leaving spectators awed but sending thousands of residents into evacuation shelters.

Disaster response officials said more than 14,700 people have been moved from high-risk areas in three cities and four towns in an ongoing evacuation. People in the danger area have put up huge white crosses in the past in their neighborhoods, hoping to protect their lives and homes.

Mayon lies in coconut-growing Albay province about 210 miles southeast of Manila.

Three steam explosions since Saturday have spewed ash into nearby villages and may have breached solidified lava plugging the crater and caused lava to start gushing out, Solidum said.

With its near-perfect cone, Mayon is popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently.

Experts fear a major eruption could trigger pyroclastic flows — superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, incinerating or vaporizing everything in their path. More explosive explosions of ash could drift toward nearby towns and cities, including Legazpi city, the provincial capital, about 9 miles away.

Engine surge caused Turkish plane to skid

ANKARA, Turkey — A Turkish media report says the pilots of a plane that skidded off the runway and down a slope toward the sea have told investigators that the plane's right engine experienced a sudden surge of speed that forced it to swerve to the left.

The Pegasus Airlines Boeing 737-800, with 168 people on board, went off the runway at Trabzon Airport in northern Turkey late Saturday, stopping at an

WORLD

Palestinian leader rips Trump over peace plan

By LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — In a combative, two-hour speech brimming with colorful insults, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas denounced President Donald Trump on Sunday, calling his forthcoming peace proposal “the slap of the century.”

He said Palestinians were being offered the Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis as the capital of their future state rather than East Jerusalem, which most of the international community considers illegally occupied by Israel. The area sits outside Israel's security barrier and has been floated but rejected as a capital for a Palestinian state in previous negotiations.

“We said, ‘No,’ to Trump,” Abbas said. “We won’t accept his project; his deal of the century is the slap of the century, and we will respond.”

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Monday that Abbas had “lost his

senses” following his fiery speech against Trump, The Associated Press reported.

Lieberman told Israel's Army Radio that Abbas' address symbolized his giving up on the prospect of peace negotiations and opting instead for a confrontation with both Israel and the United States.

Abbas was addressing members of the Palestinian Central Council as they began to discuss their response to the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Proposals include rescinding Palestinian recognition of Israel, pursuing Israel for war crimes at the International Criminal Court and advancing efforts for a Palestinian state to be recognized internationally.

While Trump said at the time that the Jerusalem decision would have no impact on the final status of the contested city, he later tweeted that it had been taken “off the table” for negotiations, from which he accused the Palestinians of walking away.

Discussing the tweets, Abbas said there were no negotiations to walk away from.

“I see a tweet,” he said. “We will not give Palestinians money because they refuse to negotiate.”

His frustration was evident. “May your house be destroyed,” he said, aiming a common Arab insult at Trump.

He questioned where Trump had offered negotiations. “On the phone? On television?”

Abbas has said that the U.S. can no longer be a fair arbiter for negotiations, but that the Palestinians are open to talks in line with the Arab Peace Initiative, a framework endorsed by the Arab League in 2002.

Abbas also had sharp barbs for U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, whom he criticized for his support of Jewish settlements, and the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, Nikki Haley. The pair are an “insult” to any self-respecting U.S. administration, he said. Haley, he said, wears high heels “not for elegance but to use to hit anyone who attacks Israel.”

Abbas said the Palestinians are at a

“critical moment.”

Some Palestinian officials say they also plan to request that the United Nations come up with a detailed peace proposal as a basis for negotiations and bypass using the U.S. as a sole broker.

There is some skepticism that the Palestinians will go as far as rescinding recognition of Israel.

Ashraf al-Ajrami, a senior Palestinian official, said there may be a decision to add a caveat that it will continue only if Palestinian rights are recognized. However, Abbas said that the 1993 Oslo peace agreement, in which the Palestinian Liberation Organization recognized Israel, was already dead. Israel had destroyed it, he said.

Officials will continue their meeting on Monday. “The issues that are going to be discussed are primarily new strategic orientations: our relationship with Israel and the United States,” said Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's executive committee.



An injured man is carried out of the Jakarta Stock Exchange tower Monday after a floor collapse in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mezzanine collapse at Jakarta Stock Exchange hurts nearly 80

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A mezzanine floor inside the Jakarta Stock Exchange tower collapsed Monday, injuring nearly 80 people and forcing a chaotic evacuation.

Security camera footage circulated online showed the collapse, with a group of people plunging several feet to the ground as the structure gave way beneath them.

National police spokesman Setyo Wasisto said most of the injured were college students from Palembang in Sumatra who were

visiting the stock exchange as part of a study tour.

Wasisto ruled out terrorism as a cause of the collapse.

“There is no bomb element in the incident,” he said.

Figures given by spokespeople for five hospitals show 77 people were injured.

A spokeswoman for Jakarta's Si-loam Hospital said it had received more than two dozen victims.

A college student from Palembang said she felt a tremor just before the floor collapsed.

“The structure suddenly collapsed, causing chaos,” the student, identified as Ade, told

MetroTV.

She said some of her friends were hit by debris and suffered head wounds and broken bones.

The stock exchange remained open for its afternoon trading session and its general manager, Tito Sulistio, asserted no one had been killed.

“I guarantee that there were no fatalities,” he said. “I helped evacuate the victims to the park and, as far as I know, the worst injuries are fractures.”

He said the exchange will pay the students' medical costs.

Palestinians to get 3G in West Bank after Israel lifts ban

By KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinians in the West Bank are finally getting high-speed mobile data services after a yearslong Israeli ban that cost their fragile economy hundreds of millions of dollars, impeded technology start-ups and denied them simple conveniences enjoyed by the rest of the world.

Palestinian cellphone providers Wataniya and Jawwal are expected to launch 3G broadband services in the West Bank by the end of this month, Palestinian officials said, after Israel assigned frequencies and allowed the importation of equipment.

“It's about time,” Wataniya CEO Durgham Marae said of the anticipated launch, speaking to The Associated Press at company headquarters in the West Bank last week. “It has taken a very, very long time.”

The belated move to 3G comes a decade after Palestinian operators first sought Israeli permits and at a time when faster 4G is increasingly available in the Mid-

dle East.

This keeps Palestinian mobile companies at a continued disadvantage, including in competition with Israeli companies that offer 3G and 4G coverage to Palestinian customers in the West Bank through towers installed in Israeli settlements. The World Bank has criticized this state of affairs because the Israeli firms do not pay license fees or taxes to the Palestinian authorities.

The Israeli ban on 3G also remains in place in the Gaza Strip, making that Palestinian territory, dominated by the militant group Hamas, one of the last without such services across the globe. Mobile internet is available in far-flung places, from the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan to the Atlantic's volcanic rock island of Ascension.

In blocking 3G for years, Israel has cited security concerns, without going into details. Officials suggest, for example, that high-speed mobile data could make it easier for Palestinian militants to communicate while reducing the risk of Israeli surveillance.

Russian military drills with missile launchers

MOSCOW — The Russian military is conducting drills involving truck-mounted intercontinental ballistic missile launchers.

The Defense Ministry said maneuvers involving Topol-M and Yars missile launchers began Monday.

Those types of nuclear-tipped ICBMs are mounted on heavy all-terrain vehicles, making it more

difficult for an enemy to spot them. The ministry said the drills are being conducted across a vast area from the Ivanovo region just northeast of Moscow to the Irkutsk region in eastern Siberia.

It said the exercise will focus on the deployment of missiles and fending off possible attacks by enemy scouts.

Russia's armed forces have intensified their combat training amid tensions with NATO over Ukraine.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

A Jim Crow divide in college sports

By VICTORIA L. JACKSON
Los Angeles Times

Now that the bowl season and College Football Playoff have concluded, college sports fans are shifting their attention from football to basketball in anticipation of March Madness.

Although I'm a huge sports fan and ran track at school, I won't be watching any men's college basketball this spring. Not because I don't support the athletes. Rather, I can't endorse a system that exploits football and basketball players so that "nonrevenue" athletes like me — runners, tennis players, golfers, gymnasts, swimmers — can both play and study.

Unlike college athletes who bring in revenue, nonrevenue athletes get to earn quality degrees.

We are the beneficiaries of college athletics. Meanwhile, the professionalism required of big-time college football and basketball athletes leaves no time for the "student" part of the student-athlete equation.

As an undergraduate student and track and field athlete at University of North Carolina, I was the prototypical athlete you learn about in NCAA messaging. Elite athletics enhanced my education as I earned my degree to "go pro" in something other than sports.

I never spent more than 20 hours per week in practice and competition, my coaches always prioritized academics over athletics, and my experiences launched me on a path to earning my Ph.D. As a graduate student at Arizona State University, I was an NCAA national champion in the 10,000-meter run.

This is not the trajectory for many revenue-generating college athletes. They spend upward of 50 or 60 hours per week on sports. They frequently are enrolled in easy, sometimes fraudulent courses to maintain their eligibility and often don't graduate.

NCAA rules stipulate that they cannot be paid, despite the massive amounts of money their athletic performance generates. Instead, some of those dollars subsidize idyllic student-athlete experiences like mine.

I embraced the weekly grind of the college athlete lifestyle, much like they did. I hit hard workouts, lifted weights and completed my prehab and rehab in the training room. But, unlike them, they spent responsibilities ended there. While they memorized playbooks, studied film and fulfilled media obligations, I escaped to the library in what became a love affair with history.

Thanks to the labor of football and basketball players, I did not pay for college, took full advantage of attending one of the top public universities in the nation and traveled to cool places on the school's dime.

It may be difficult to view revenue-generating players as exploited. They are celebrated with grandiose pageants on ESPN and CBS. And we are all familiar with the stereotype of college football and basketball stars — entitled jocks who benefit from world-class athletic facilities, gourmet training tables, academic support centers, game rooms with all the bells and whistles, and travel on chartered airplanes.

But for those who don't go on to make millions as pros after graduation — and the vast majority of Division I football players don't — the NCAA narrative simply doesn't apply.

This divide correlates with race. Non-revenue athletes are mostly white, while revenue sport athletes are disproportionately black. This is especially true at the most elite sports schools, the Power Five conferences.

According to a study by Dr. Shaun R. Harper, black men represent 2.8 percent of undergraduate students at UNC, but 62 percent of the school's basketball and football players. These athletes graduate at a rate of 45 percent, compared with 72 percent for all athletes, 74 percent for black males and 90 percent for all students.

If you are black and male and you do not play sports — well, good luck gaining admission to schools like UNC. If you are admitted, be prepared to field regional inquiries about which sport you play.

Let's be real. In big-time college sports, majority-black teams entertain majority-white crowds. Mostly white head coaches make millions, and the mostly black players don't make any money beyond their scholarships. These students have little time for academics and therefore don't graduate at the same rates as the general student body or the nonrevenue athlete peers.

This college sports system contributes to the undervaluing of black lives in American society and our institutions. The predominantly white privilege of playing college sports while earning a quality degree comes at the expense of — is literally paid for by — the educationally unequal experiences of mostly black football and basketball players.

Let's call this system what it is: 21st-century Jim Crow.

Victoria L. Jackson is a sports historian at Arizona State University and former college track athlete.

Matt Damon's hard lesson over #MeToo

By TOD ROBBERSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Scientists have finally discovered a cure for that dreaded condition known as Male Answer Syndrome. It's called the #MeToo movement. Men, it's now our turn — to shut up. A lot of folks probably think that's a good thing, but be careful about what you wish for.

In the nation's mad rush to accuse, condemn, convict and cast out anyone who has engaged in sexually unacceptable behavior, we also are shutting down an important discussion that still needs to take place, one in which men must participate. A lot of men want to speak out in support of women, but in this atmosphere, they don't dare.

Just ask Matt Damon. He was forthright enough on Dec. 14, during an interview with ABC News, to warn against lumping all transgressors into "one big bucket" without regard to nuance or distinction. "There's a difference between, you know, patting someone on the butt and rape or child molestation, right?" he said. "Both of those behaviors need to be confronted and eradicated without question, but they shouldn't be conflated, right?"

I don't hold all Hollywood actors in high regard concerning their intellectual and political insights, but Damon strikes me as smart and thoughtful. He measures his words carefully.

Doesn't matter. Team America: World Police quickly arrived with guns blazing. We haven't heard a peep from Damon since. He kept a low profile at the Golden Globes festival. He dutifully dressed in black like all his other frightened male colleagues but stayed away from the

microphones.

Just before Christmas, members of my family were debating what movies to go see. I proposed Damon's new film, "Downsizing," and was instantly put in my place. As I cast my eyes downward in shame and silence, I was informed that Damon defends sexual abusers. "Downsizing" was nixed in my household as a movie-going option, no matter how good the reviews.

Multiply that by a few million, and that's Damon's punishment. Because our nation is now in Austere Mode, "Downsizing" was officially downsized. Barely 10 days after Damon's ABC interview, the Hollywood Reporter said "Downsizing" was radioactive at the box office.

What other actor wants to risk that fate? Publishers told The New York Times' Cara Buckley that men attending the Golden Globes were probably terrified of making missteps on the world's stage. When every word men utter is pored over, parsed and often harshly criticized, silence is often the best option."

In truth, Damon's words weren't radically different from those of other observers, including women, on the national stage. In The Times op-ed page, critic Daphne Merkin wrote that she expected stars to show up in the Golden Globes and dutifully toe the #MeToo line. "But privately, I suspect, many of us, including many long-standing feminists, will be rolling our eyes, having had it with the reflexive and unnuanced sense of outrage that has accompanied this cause from its inception, turning a bona fide moment of moral accountability into a series of ad hoc and sometimes unproven accusations."

Liberal America has a way of adopting

groupthink not as a heartfelt expression of solidarity and empathy but rather as an involuntary requirement. They will obliterate all notions of free speech and thought. Conservatives couldn't be happier watching this feeding frenzy.

Did Al Franken deserve to be lumped in with Harvey Weinstein among the ranks of most-wanted sexual terrorists? No. But his critics weren't interested in his defense. Franken's career as a U.S. senator is now over.

I have not been sexually victimized by a person who had power over me, so I cannot claim to know how that feels. I did experience two times in my career when extremely powerful people abused me professionally. Had I chosen to come forward, I probably could have exacted a large label settlement from one of those prominent people. I could have ruined the career of the other.

But in the process, I feared, I would destroy my own career. So I kept silent. And I have hated myself ever since.

What I went through compares not even slightly with the pain and humiliation that countless women who have experienced at the hands of men who had power over them and abused or harassed them sexually. Yes, now is the time for them to speak out and be heard. Anyone who doesn't have something to contribute to the conversation is best advised to listen quietly.

But please, if a few well-meaning men dare to venture a constructive viewpoint that isn't 100 percent in line with the current groupthink, must they also be autoshamed? Thoughtful people don't deserve to be destroyed in the name of going after the guys who really deserve it.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

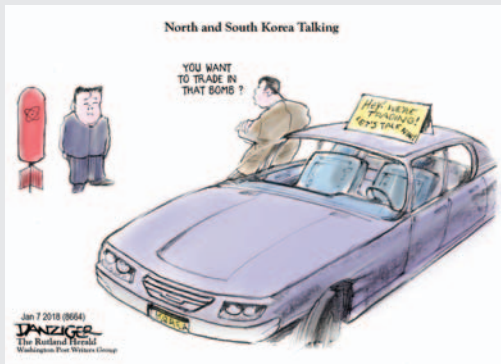


Lisa Benson/Washington Post Writers Group



The GOP Wave

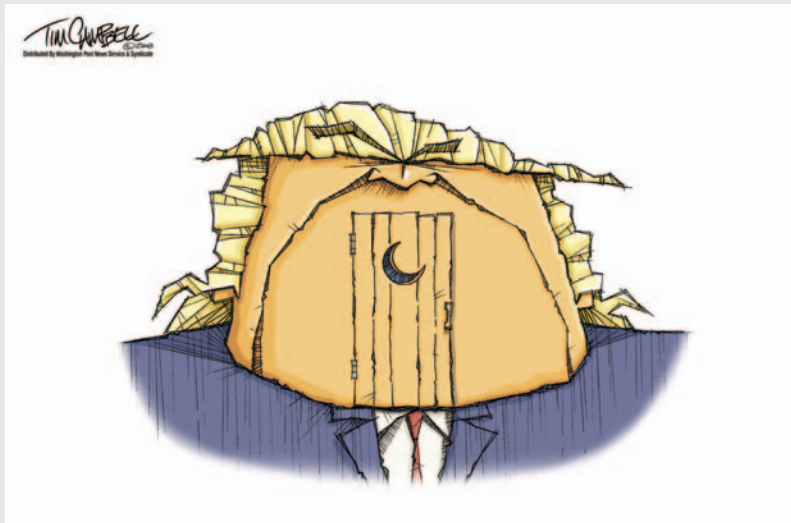
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TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Moose calf trapped in snow saved, put down

ME CROUSEVILLE — A group of concerned citizens in Maine saved a young moose trapped in the snow.

WLBT-TV reported that the group dug the calf out of 40 inches of snow in Crouseville on Jan. 8.

Area resident Lauren Allen said Maine game wardens responded to help load the distressed animal onto a flat sled and to move her to stable ground. Allen said the moose got stranded the previous week, too, and needed help. Community members think the calf lost its mother.

Warden Service spokesman Cpl. John MacDonald said the baby moose's labored breathing pointed toward an illness called lungworm. In consultation with wildlife biologists, game wardens determined the moose had to be put down.

Police: Man sells family dog to buy drugs

NC DUDLEY — Authorities said a North Carolina man has been accused of stealing the family's puppy and selling it to buy drugs.

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office told local media outlets Christopher O'Neal Eakes, 41, is charged with larceny of a dog.

The sheriff's office completed a larceny report on New Year's Day on an 8-week-old Yorkie puppy stolen from a residence. An investigation determined the stepfather of the victim sold the puppy to buy drugs. Authorities said the family who bought the puppy didn't know it was stolen.

The dog was found and returned to its home. Eakes was jailed on a \$2,500 unsecured bond.

Hotel clerk burned in attack with cleaner

NV LAS VEGAS — Officials said a Las Vegas hotel clerk suffered chemical burns when a tenant threw toilet bowl cleaner into his face that may leave him permanently blinded.

The Review-Journal reported that the doctor of Kenneth O'Brien, 61, said he suffered facial and retinal scarring in the attack.

Police said Christopher King, 60, threw concentrated cleaner into O'Brien's face at the extended-stay hotel on Dec. 30.

Police documents state O'Brien was bleeding from his mouth when they arrived but was able to identify King as his attacker. Officers said they later found a can of concentrated toilet cleaner in King's car.

King was arrested on suspicion of mayhem and battery.

Fire destroys 75 boats at storage facility

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Authorities said a fire destroyed 75 boats inside an Indianapolis storage facility, causing an estimated \$1.5 million in damage.

The Indianapolis Fire Depart-

THE CENSUS

\$1,500

The amount of money in a purse that a Florida couple left at a restaurant and that was found by a busboy. Francis and Peggy Humanick, of Boca Raton, noticed the purse was gone Jan. 8 when they got home. Matt Cureton, 19, found it while cleaning tables at Wendy's restaurant in Fort Pierce and handed it to manager Betsy Hersha. The Humanicks drove the 80 miles back to Wendy's after learning the purse was safe. Hersha said she hugged Cureton, told him he did the right thing and encouraged him to accept a \$100 reward.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Traditional celebration

Dancers from Virginia Native American Tribes perform Saturday during inaugural ceremonies for Gov. Ralph Northam at the Capitol in Richmond, Va.

ment said no one was injured in the fire at the Just Add Water Boats winter storage facility on Jan. 7.

Dozens of firefighters worked for nearly two hours to get the fire under control. The department said all of the boats inside the facility were destroyed.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Officers seize \$22M in cocaine in furniture

PA PHILADELPHIA — Federal customs officials in Philadelphia said they found 709 pounds of cocaine concealed inside bedroom and kitchen cabinets that were shipped from Puerto Rico, making it the area's largest illicit drug bust in a decade.

The drugs, which had a street value of about \$22 million, were seized in November by Customs and Border Protection officers from the Area Port of Philadelphia.

The drugs were found inside false walls of the furniture that concealed 256 bricks of a white, powdery substance that field-tested positive for cocaine.

Renter faces \$120K suit for frozen pipes

OR BEND — A man who rented a town home in Bend is facing a \$120,000 lawsuit that accuses him of letting the temperature inside drop too low, allowing the pipes to freeze.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the suit says renter Benjamin Scicluna signed a lease for the property agreeing he wouldn't let the temperature inside dip below 60 degrees, he would leave cabinets open so air could circulate around pipes and he would notify the rental company if he left for more than seven days.

The suit claims Scicluna violated all those terms when he rented the property last winter.

Scicluna's friend, Jim Lauderdale, also is listed as a defendant. Lauderdale said he didn't live in the home with Scicluna but he co-signed the lease.

Principal announces school's out in parody

KY FLORENCE — Sometimes a snow day calls

for a song.

That's what a Kentucky principal did, posting a musical message for parents to let them know classes were canceled due to icy roads.

Union Pointe Academy Principal Chad Caddell posted the video Jan. 8 on the school's Facebook page, singing "that school is canceled for today" to the tune of Mariah Carey's "Hero." Dressed in a long coat and fur trapper hat, he begins the parody by saying he's got something on his heart he has to share.

Caddell also posted the video to Twitter.

Officer accused of running over suspect

NJ JERSEY CITY — A veteran New Jersey police officer suspected of running over a suspect twice with his patrol SUV during a chase last summer has been charged with assault by auto.

Hudson County prosecutors said Jersey City Sgt. John Ransom was arrested Friday.

The charge stems from an Aug. 6 chase in Jersey City. Authorities said the suspect ran into a

park, where he was struck in an incident caught on surveillance cameras.

The man suffered a fracture to his face along with cuts to his body and head. He was charged with drug possession and was sentenced in September to two years of probation.

Chase ends as driver runs out of gasoline

MA BOSTON — Police said a slow-speed chase in Massachusetts ended when a truck driver ran out of gasoline.

The Republican newspaper reported that police tried to stop a pickup truck in Ludlow, Mass., on Sunday. Ludlow Police trailed the truck into Springfield and Springfield Police began assisting in the chase. The truck pulled over at an intersection.

Ludlow Police said Corey Moreau, 37, told them he stopped because he ran out of gas.

Police said Moreau had five arrest warrants and was charged with failure to stop for police and other violations.

From wire reports

FACES

On the run

Offred pregnant, fleeing society when 'Handmaid's Tale' returns

By LYNN ELBER ■ Associated Press

The wrenching loss of an infant to a totalitarian society is explored in season two of "The Handmaid's Tale," star Elisabeth Moss (right) and the show's producers said.

The drama series based on Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel begins with Moss' character on the run when it returns April 25 on Hulu. Offred, also known as June, is a pregnant "handmaid," one of those used to breed children in a futuristic society where many women are infertile.

Moss said she and series creator-executive producer Bruce Miller often discussed "this child growing inside her as a bit of a ticking time bomb,"

one destined to be born in tragic circumstances.

"When she does have the baby, the baby gets taken away from her. She can't be its mother," Moss told TV critics Sunday. "It makes for good drama."

Season two also visits the colonies that are mentioned in Atwood's 1985 book but not depicted, executive producer Warren Littlefield said. A bigger production budget helped the series venture afield.

"The Handmaid's Tale" won eight 2017 Emmys and, this month, a best series Golden Globe and best-actress trophy for Moss. Oscar-winner Marisa Tomei guest stars in episode two, the producers said.



Hulu

'Jumanji' still tops box office

The Associated Press

Meryl Streep, Liam Neeson, Taraji P. Henson and Paddington Bear rushed into movie theaters over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, but "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" still roared the loudest with an estimated \$27 million in ticket sales, Friday to Sunday.

"Jumanji" easily remained the No. 1 film in North America despite an onslaught of new challengers, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Sony Pictures release is now approaching \$300 million domestically and, after grossing \$40 million in China this weekend, a worldwide total of \$667 million.

Coming closest was Steven Spielberg's Pentagon Papers drama "The Post," starring Streep as Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham and Tom Hanks as editor Ben Bradlee. Twentieth Century Fox is forecasting \$18.6 million for the weekend and \$22.2 million for the four-day holiday.

Landing in third was the Neeson thriller "The Commuter," which made a modest \$13.5 million.

The children's book adaptation sequel "Paddington 2" opened with \$10.6 million. It has grossed \$139.8 million overseas thus far.

Actress Dushku alleges molestation during 1994 film

Actress Eliza Dushku says she was sexually molested at age 12 by a stunt coordinator during production of the 1994 film "True Lies."

In a post on her Facebook account Jan. 13, Dushku also alleged that Joel Kramer, then 36, caused her to be injured on the set as payback for disclosing the alleged misconduct to a friend. Kramer denied the accusations as "lies" in trade publication interviews.

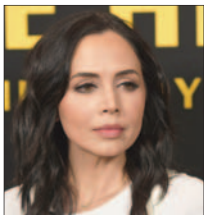
A Dushku representative didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

"These are outlandish, manipulated lies," Kramer told the website Deadline. "I never sexually molested her... I think she's making this up in her imagination."

"True Lies" filmmaker James Cameron said he was unaware of what he called Dushku's "heart-breaking" experience and lauded her as "very brave" for speaking up.

"Had I known about it, there would have been no mercy," said Cameron, who was taking part in a Q&A session with TV critics Jan. 13 to promote a new TV show. "Now, especially when I have daughters, there really is no mercy."

Dushku joins the growing ranks of those alleging sexual misconduct in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The allegations against the movie mogul, which he has denied, and other Hollywood and media figures



AP

Dushku, in 2016

gave rise to the #MeToo protest movement.

In her post, Dushku said she shared what occurred at the time with her parents, two adult friends and an older brother, adding that no one "seemed ready to confront this taboo subject then, nor was I."

She said the "ever growing list of sexual abuse and harassment victims who have spoken out with their truths have finally given me the ability to speak out. It has been indescribably exhausting, bottling this up inside me for all of these years."

Dushku alleged in the post that Kramer lured her to his hotel room, put her on a bed and, approaching her naked except for a "filmy" towel, rubbed his body over hers.

When she confided to an adult female friend who then confronted him on the set, Dushku said that she suffered broken ribs "in no small coincidence" in a stunt that went awry.

From The Associated Press

Wahlberg donates reshooting fee

The Associated Press

Mark Wahlberg has agreed to donate the \$1.5 million he made for reshoots on the film "All the Money in the World" to the sexual misconduct defense initiative Time's Up.

The actor said Jan. 13 he'll make the donation in the name of his co-star, Michelle Williams, who was reportedly paid less than \$1,000 for the reshoots.

The agency William Morris Endeavor represents both actors and said it will donate an additional \$500,000, also in Williams' name.

The reshoots occurred over 10 days when Christopher Plummer replaced Kevin Spacey in the film after sexual misconduct accusations against Spacey surfaced.

Both Plummer and Williams were nominated for Golden Globes for their performances.

Williams said in a statement Jan. 13 that Wahlberg's decision to donate the money isn't about her.

Models accuse photographers Weber, Testino of sex misconduct

In a sweeping new sexual misconduct investigation, The New York Times reported Jan. 13 that several male models have accused famed photographers Bruce Weber and Mario Testino of unwanted advances and coercion.

Fifteen current and former models told the Times that Weber's demands often occurred during photo shoots and other private sessions. Thirteen assistants and models accused Testino, the Times reported.

Weber's racy advertisements for Calvin Klein, Abercrombie & Fitch and other companies helped turn him into a star in commercial and fine art photography.

Testino, adored by celebrities, glossy magazines including Vogue and younger members of the British royal family, was accused of groping and making sexual come-ons, the newspaper said.

Allegations against both date back many years, the Times said.

Representatives for both photographers said they were dismayed and surprised by the allegations.

Comedian Aziz Ansari responds to sex misconduct allegations

Comedian Aziz Ansari has responded to allegations of sexual misconduct by a woman he dated last year.

Ansari said in a statement Sunday that he apologized last year when she told him about her discomfort during a sexual encounter in his apartment he said he believed to be consensual.

The woman, identified as a 23-year-old photographer in an interview with Babe.net, says she was furious when she saw Ansari was wearing a "Time's Up" pin while accepting a Golden Globe on Jan. 7.

She said it brought back memories of him assaulting her after a date in his apartment.

The next day, the woman texted Ansari letting him know that she was upset with his behavior that night.

Ansari says he was surprised and apologized.

Other news

■ **Katie Couric** has broken her silence on sexual misconduct allegations against her former "Today" co-host, Matt Lauer. Couric told People magazine in a story published Jan. 13 she had "no idea this was going on" while she was working with him and even after she left in 2006 to anchor "CBS Evening News." She called Lauer a "kind and generous" colleague who "treated me with respect."

■ YouTube has suspended a star who posted video images of what appeared to be a suicide victim but said Jan. 13 that doesn't mean it won't work with him in the future. The video service announced last week that it had pulled Logan Paul's channel from its ad-supported Google Preferred platform and put two other projects on hold.

■ Police say former NBA star **Dennis Rodman** was arrested Jan. 13 on suspicion of DUI in Newport Beach, Calif.

SHIFTING GEARS



Photos courtesy of Nissan

'4-door Sports Car'

Upgraded 2018 Nissan Maxima is more fun to drive than typical family car

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III

The (Fort Wayne, Ind.) News-Sentinel

Nissan rolled out the newest generation of its Nissan Maxima sport sedan just two years ago, and now it returns for 2018 with just a few enhancements.

Those include standard Android Auto connectivity (in addition to Apple CarPlay, added last year), new content for the Midnight Edition package and a new exterior color, Carnelian Red (\$395 extra), which was included on our test vehicle.

Prices for 2018 start at \$33,270 (plus \$835 freight) for the base S model. Other trim levels include the SV (\$35,270), SL (\$37,690), SR (\$38,530) and the top-of-the-line Platinum (\$40,940), which we tested for this report.

With the most recent redesign, the Maxima moved into its eighth generation as Nissan's flagship sedan. With all of the changes and its stunning good looks, this is the best Maxima ever.

Nissan bills the Maxima as the "4-door Sports Car," and it's powered by the latest VQ-series 3.5-liter V-6 engine, cranking out 300 horsepower and 261 foot-pounds of torque.

The engine directs power to the front wheels through a continuously variable automatic transmission. With front-wheel drive, however, the Maxima might not qualify as a true sports car to some purists.

Nevertheless, the Maxima is fun to drive, with sporty road handling and precise, predictable steering and braking. With the redesign, the Maxima now rides on a lighter, more-rigid chassis, which gives it that sporty handling.

It has decent fuel economy, as well. EPA ratings for 2018 are 21 mpg city/30 highway/25 combined.

This year's Maxima comes with the safety technology added late in the 2017 model year, including Intelligent Forward Collision Warning and Automatic Emergency Braking 2, standard on all models. Automatic Emergency Braking takes over when the system detects the possibility of rear-ending vehicles the Maxima is following.

Our Platinum model's seats were covered

with premium cashmere Ascot leather, and the dash, upper door panels, armrests, center console and steering wheel were Ascot leather, with diamond-quilted Alcantara inserts. The front seats were heated and cooled, and we had LED interior accent lighting, an eight-way power driver's seat and a four-way power front passenger seat.

The heated sport steering wheel has a flat bottom like you'd find on many sports cars, wrapped in the same Ascot leather as the seats, with an Alcantara insert.

There is a 60/40 split fold-down design for the rear seat to allow for extension of the trunk's capacity. The trunk has 14.3 cubic feet of cargo space.

The Platinum's standard NissanConnect audio system with navigation has an 8-inch color display with touch control and voice recognition. The system also includes satellite radio and SiriusXM Travel Link, streaming audio via Bluetooth, hands-free text messaging, and two front illuminated USB connection ports for compatible devices.

Those ports are under a small door at the front of the center console for easy access; they're not hidden in the storage bin like they are on a lot of other vehicles.

The transmission shifted smoothly throughout the power band, and there was quite impressive acceleration from this drivetrain. It even came with steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters to pace the car through a range of gears.

The car also features the new "swipe to meter" feature, which allows the driver to swipe the navigation map from the center display to bring it up in the standard 7-inch driver-assist display in front of the driver in the middle of the instrument cluster.

The Maxima is a full-size sedan that

competes against such stalwarts as the Toyota Avalon, Chevrolet Impala, Chrysler 300 and Dodge Charger.

The cabin has been crafted to rival those of luxury vehicles. With the redesign, the Maxima was made 1.3 inches lower and 2.2 inches longer than the previous generation, which arrived for 2009.

We had plenty of room for our knees and legs both in the front and the rear, and three medium-size adults could sit fairly comfortably together on the rear bench seat. There is a pull-down armrest with dual cupholders for use when you're carrying just two people in the back seat.

Among other standard Maxima features are four-wheel power/vented antilock disc brakes with electronic brake-force distribution and brake assist, rearview monitor, active noise cancellation, dual-zone automatic climate control and a HomeLink universal gate/garage opener.

The standard Intelligent Driver Alertness system monitors steering inputs and alerts the driver audibly and visually when drowsy/inattentive driving is detected. The Platinum also comes with rain-sensing wipers, along with memory for the driver's seat, outside mirrors and steering wheel.

Other safety features on our test included adaptive cruise control, blind-spot warning with rear cross-traffic alert, stability and traction control, tire-pressure monitoring with Nissan's Easy-Fill alert system and a security system with vehicle immobilizer.

The Maxima also came with speed-sensitive hydro-electric power steering, heated outside mirrors with turn signals, front and rear parking sensors, front halogen fog lights, LED daytime running lights and LED low-beam headlights.

2018 Nissan Maxima



Highlights: Redesigned just two years ago, Nissan's flagship sedan is roomy and comfortable, with a long list of standard amenities and safety features.

Low: No manual gearbox offered for those who want a sportier driving experience.

Vehicle type: Four-door sedan

Base price: \$33,270-\$40,940, plus \$835 freight

Price as tested: \$42,220 (Platinum model)

Powertrain: 3.5-liter V-6

Transmission: Continuously variable automatic with paddle shifters

Horsepower: 300

Torque: 261 pound-feet

EPA fuel economy rating: 21 mpg city/30 highway/25 combined

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Airbus may abandon A380 if no Emirates deal

By ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS — Airbus said Monday it will stop making the costly A380 superjumbo if it can't strike a long-term deal with the airline Emirates for a steady supply of the planes.

Abandoning the A380 would be a disappointing defeat for Airbus, which spent many years and many billions of dollars developing the double-decker behemoth, even as skeptics questioned whether it could generate enough demand to justify its cost and the bigger runways it requires.

Airbus chief salesman John Leahy told reporters Monday,

when Airbus otherwise reported a record number of overall plane deliveries for 2017, that "if we can't work out a deal with Emirates, there is no choice but to shut down the program."

He said the Dubai-based airline is "the only one who has the ability" to commit to a minimum of six planes a year for a minimum of eight to 10 years, which Airbus needs to make the program viable.

Emirates, the government-owned, Dubai-based long-haul carrier, declined to immediately comment.

The A380 drew worldwide attention when launched a decade

ago but has always struggled to win enough customers. Airbus delivered just 15 of the planes last year, and aims to deliver 12 more this year and could scale down production to six per year after that, CEO Fabrice Bregier said.

Emirates now relies solely on the Airbus 380 and the Boeing 777 for its flights, making it the largest operator of both. It has more than 160 Boeing 777s in its fleet today and took possession of its 100th A380 in November.

Reports circulated before the Dubai Air Show in November that a major A380 sale would be coming.

Instead, however, Airbus em-

ployees found themselves attending a news conference where Emirates announced the purchase of 40 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners in a \$15.1 billion deal. The air show ended without an A380 deal, throwing the line into question.

Monday's announcement came as Airbus said it sold 1,109 planes year, outstripping the 912 commercial planes sold by rival Boeing thanks to a raft of end-of-year deals, a growing global economy and travel demand.

The planemaker, based in Toulouse, France, reported Monday that it delivered 718 planes in 2017, fewer than Boeing's 763 but

still a record for Airbus.

Bregier said Airbus will speed up production in the coming year, notably of its long-delayed wide-body A350, and hopes to out-deliver Boeing by 2020.

Bregier, who's being replaced next month by Guillaume Faury as Airbus overhauls its top management, acknowledged "challenges" ahead but called them "manageable."

Airbus is facing multiple corruption investigations, notably in Britain, France and Austria.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 15)	\$1.245
Dollar buys (Jan. 15)	69.7142
British pound (Jan. 15)	\$1.40
Japanese yen (Jan. 15)	109.00
South Korean won (Jan. 15)	1,037.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.3800
Canada (Dollar)	1.2430
China (Yuan)	6.4365
Denmark (Krone)	6.0754
Egypt (Pound)	17.1101
Euro	\$1.2262/0.8155
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8251
Hungary (Forint)	251.81
Israel (Shekel)	3.4063
Japan (Yen)	110.69
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.006
Norway (Krone)	7.9052
Philippines (Peso)	50.36
Poland (Zloty)	3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3221
South Korea (Won)	1,063.21
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9618
Thailand (Baht)	31.92
Turkey (New Lira)	3,8003

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (U.S. purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies in one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federal funds market rate	4.42
3-month bill	1.41
30-year bond	2.85

Lego, Chinese firm plan children's social network

Associated Press

LONDON — Toy maker Lego is partnering with Chinese internet firm Tencent to offer games, video and possibly a social network aimed at children.

The privately-owned company based in Copenhagen, Denmark, said Monday that the deal would combine Lego's ability to create content with Tencent's distribution reach.

"We've seen more and more Chinese children engage with the world digitally, and the partnership will bring them safe and imaginative Lego content," said Jacob Kragh, general manager of Lego China.

Shenzhen-based Tencent is one of China's most powerful internet companies, running the WeChat messaging app as well as online payment platforms and games. Because Chinese authori-

ties have largely shut out Western companies such as Google and Facebook, homegrown internet companies such as Tencent have been able to grow rapidly in size.

For Lego, the move is part of a reorganization of its business that it began last year, when it announced it was shedding 1,400 jobs, or 8 percent of its workforce.

Lego has for years moved beyond the traditional plastic bricks it is known for, backing films and digital products.

But its sales hit a peak last year and the company is looking for new ways to reach children in more countries.

China has been one of the bright spots for Lego recently, with annual sales up by double digits, and the partnership with Tencent will seek to reinforce its presence in one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing markets.



MARK SCHEFFELBEIN/AP

People look at a display of Lego creations at Hamleys toy store Dec. 23 in Beijing. Lego is joining Chinese internet firm Tencent to offer products aimed at engaging children.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.



Support the mission

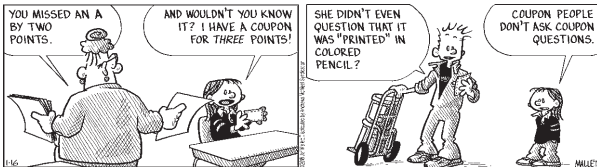
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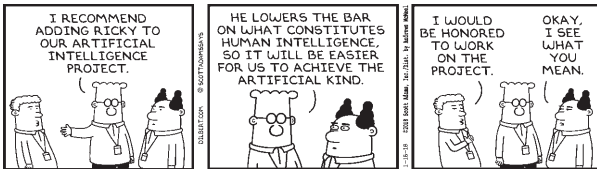
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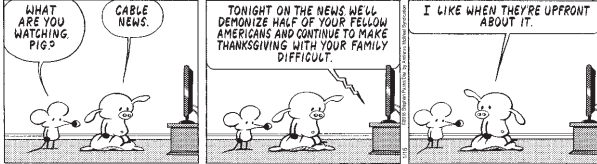
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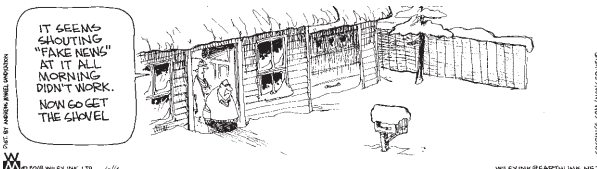
Dilbert



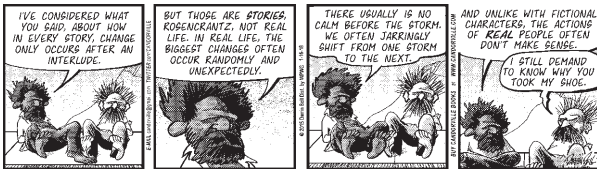
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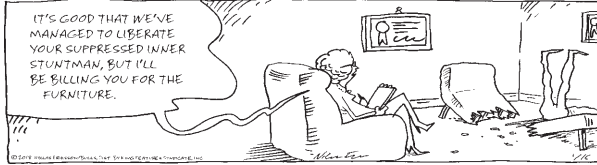
Non Sequitur



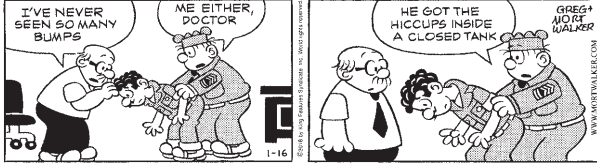
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
				18			19	20				
21	22	23				24						
25						26				27	28	29
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33				34					35			
				36				37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

ACROSS

- 1 Not many
- 5 Moonshine vessel
- 8 Curved molding
- 12 Surrealist
- 13 Greek H
- 14 The Big Easy acronym
- 15 Reverie
- 17 It grows on you
- 18 Gratuity
- 19 Lass
- 21 Buckwheat porridge
- 24 Hunger symptom
- 25 Raw minerals
- 26 April celebration
- 30 "— the ramparts ..."
- 31 Arm bones
- 32 Mount sand
- 33 Symbolic end of summer
- 35 Mr. Frost
- 36 Injury
- 37 Big knives
- 38 Oats-nuts-fruit mix
- 41 Center
- 42 Pakistani language
- 43 9-to-5 work period
- 48 Despot
- 49 Workout site
- 50 Actor Epps

DOWN

- 1 Put two and two together?
- 2 Air safety org.
- 3 TV Tarzan son
- 4 Shoe stats
- 5 Army transport
- 6 Broadway's Hagen
- 7 Electromagnetic radiation
- 8 In the heavens
- 9 Incite
- 10 Writer Wiesel
- 11 Deserve
- 12 Estuary
- 20 Pot starter
- 21 —Aid
- 22 Vicinity
- 23 Belgrade resident
- 24 Old TWA rival
- 26 "Soul On Ice" author Cleaver
- 27 Bargain
- 28 Not pizzicato
- 29 Tibetan herd
- 31 Russian river
- 34 "Yeah, right!"
- 35 Jump from gig to gig
- 37 Greyhound vehicle
- 38 Pooch
- 39 Celestial bear
- 40 Wax-coated cheese
- 41 Church song
- 44 Nay undero
- 45 "— Believer"
- 46 Distant
- 47 Italian "three"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	O	P	L	A	M	P	S	T	B	A
A	A	S	A	D	O	R	E	R	O	C
T	R	I	A	T	H	L	O	N	I	S
			R	T	E		D	E	D	U
W	E	T	T	E	R		S	C	A	M
E	A	R	S	E	T		A	M	P	L
E	R	I	K	S	O	W		S	H	I
B	L	A	N	C		W	I	G		A
			L	E	A	D		N	E	L
T	E	R	E	S	A		E	T	E	
E	D	U		T	R	I	B	U	T	A
L	I	N		R	E	M	A	P		C
L	E	S		O	D	O	R	S		H

CRYPTOQUIP

HK D UEPFDQX KHAMO D
 PMPSMA EK CYM UIMANX, H
 SMHMBM CYMX'O YDBM CE
 NHBM YHP AMBMAMQUM FDX.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EMBEDDED ROLLS OF BREATH MINTS FROM WHICH GOLFERS HIT BALLS ON THEIR FIRST SWINGS: TEE-CERTS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals C


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- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com		letters@stripes.com	

Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: **CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012**

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Tax Assistance

940

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam flags are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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SPORTS REBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

National League

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with 1B Adrian Gonzalez on a one-year contract.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with LHP Brad Hand on a three-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
NEW ORLEANS PELICANS — Signed G Mike James to a two-year contract.
NEW YORK KNICKS — Signed G Trey Burke.

HOCKEY

NHL — Signed G Andrew F. Andrew to a two-year contract.
NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed G Adam Fox to a two-year contract.

FOOTBALL

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College basketball

Men's AP Top 25 fared

Sunday
1. Villanova (16-1) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Thursday.
2. West Virginia (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Kansas, Monday.
3. Virginia (15-1) beat No. 15 State 68-51.
4. Michigan State (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Friday.
5. Purdue (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Tuesday.
6. Wichita State (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. SMU, Wednesday.
7. Duke (15-2) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Miami, Monday.
8. Texas Tech (15-2) did not play. Next: at Texas A&M, Tuesday.
9. Oklahoma (14-2) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Tuesday.
10. Xavier (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Wednesday.
11. Arizona State (14-3) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Wednesday.
12. Kansas (14-3) did not play. Next: at No. 2 West Virginia, Monday.
13. Seton Hall (15-3) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Creighton, Wednesday.
14. Cincinnati (15-2) did not play. Next: at Texas A&M, Thursday.
15. Gonzaga (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Wednesday.
16. UCLA (16-3) did not play. Next: at California, Wednesday.
17. Duke (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Mary's, Thursday.
18. TCU (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Wednesday.
19. Arizona State (14-3) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Wednesday.
20. North Carolina (14-4) did not play. Next: at No. 20 North Carolina, Tuesday.
21. Kentucky (14-3) did not play. Next: at No. 19 Cleveland, Tuesday.
22. Auburn (16-1) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Wednesday.
23. Florida State (13-4) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Monday.
24. Tennessee (16-1) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Wednesday.
25. North Carolina (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Seton Hall, Wednesday.

Sunday's men's scores

EAST
64, Navy 62
Boston College 54, Holy Cross 40
Carmichael 54, Monmouth (NJ) 79
Davidson 75, Fordham 45
Iona 81, Rider 64
Lafayette 76, American U. 66
Marquette 77, St. Peter's 70
New York 69, Rutgers 62
Niagara 72, Saint Joseph's 69
Hofstra 65, UNC-Corolla 49
Hofstra 65, NC State 51
Indiana 66, NC State 51
Missouri 52, Saint Joseph's 69
Cincinnati 58, Colorado College 55
Florida State 58, Tennessee 58
Southern Cal 54, Utah 67

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Sunday
1. UConn (15-0) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Stanford, Tuesday.
2. Notre Dame (16-2) beat Boston College 69-49. Next: at No. 6 Tennessee, Thursday.
3. Louisville (14-0) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
4. Mississippi State (19-0) beat Baylor 74-58. Next: at No. 4 Kentucky, Sunday.
5. Virginia (15-1) beat Oklahoma 74-52. Next: at Iowa State, Wednesday.

Boxing

Fight schedule

Jan. 20
At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Errol Spence Jr. vs. Lamont Peterson, for Spence's IBF welterweight title; Robert Volkmann vs. Marcus Browne vs. Errol Spence Jr. vs. Lamont Peterson vs. Adam Kownacki vs. Lugo Kildaze, two heavyweights; Anthony Peterson vs. Luis Flores, two lightweights.
Jan. 27
At Riga, Latvia, Aleksandr Uskov vs. Marius Briedis, 12, for Uskov's WBO and IBF super flyweight titles; the vacant WBA World Boxing Super Series semifinals.
At Inglewood, Calif., Lucas Matthysse vs. Brian Avila, 12, for Avila's vacant WBA World welterweight title; Jorge Linares vs. Yordenis Uguetha, 12, for Uguetha's vacant WBA light heavyweight title; Yoshihiro Kamegai vs. Daquan Pauldo, 10, two middleweights.
Feb. 2
At Sloan, Iowa, Ronald Ellis vs. Junior Jones, 12, for Ellis' vacant USA Super middleweight title.
Feb. 3
At Alder, Russia, Murat Gassiev vs. Yury Lomachenko, 12, for Gassiev's IBF and WBA super flyweight titles; the vacant WBA World Boxing Super Series semifinals.
At Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Carlos Horacio Christ, Texas, Gilberto Ramirez vs. Habib Amed, 12, for Ramirez's vacant WBA super middleweight title; Jervin Ancajas vs. Israel Salgado, 12, for Salgado's vacant WBA super flyweight title; Jesse Hart vs. Thomas Awimbono, 10, two middleweights.
At Naha, Japan, Daigo Higa vs. Moises Fuentes, 12, for Higa's WBO flyweight title.

Golf

Soy Open

PGA TOUR

Sunday

ATLANTA, Ga.

Fulton County CC

Honolulu

Purse: \$62 million

Par 70 (4-6)

T-1. Patton Kitzhaber, 111, 66-64-64-64-63

T-2. Russell Knox, 148, 68-66-66-66-66

T-3. Tom Hoge, \$421,600

T-4. Webb Simpson, \$256,267

T-5. Brian Harman, \$256,267

T-6. Rickie Fowler, \$256,267

T-7. Adam Scott, \$256,267

T-8. Matt Kuchar, \$256,267

T-9. Brooks Koepka, \$256,267

T-10. Justin Thomas, \$256,267

T-11. Xander Schauffele, \$256,267

T-12. Patrick Cantlay, \$256,267

T-13. Jon Rahm, \$256,267

T-14. Daniel Berger, \$256,267

T-15. Tyrrell Hatton, \$256,267

T-16. Hideki Matsuyama, \$256,267

T-17. Jason Day, \$256,267

T-18. Bryson DeChambeau, \$256,267

T-19. Collin Morikawa, \$256,267

T-20. Viktor Hovland, \$256,267

T-21. Cameron Smith, \$256,267

T-22. Jonny Lee, \$256,267

T-23. Daniel Fritsch, \$256,267

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T-158. Justin Rose, \$256,267

T-159. Tyrrell Hatton, \$256,267

NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



SETH WENIG/AP

The Pelicans' Anthony Davis reacts after sinking the tying shot during the second half of Sunday's game against the Knicks in New York. Davis scored a season-high 48 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in New Orleans' 123-118 overtime win.

Roundup

Davis scores 48 as Pelicans win in OT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Anthony Davis scored a season-high 48 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, leading the New Orleans Pelicans back from 19 points down late in the third quarter to a 123-118 overtime victory over the New York Knicks on Sunday.

Jrue Holiday added 31 points, and DeMarcus Cousins had 15 points, 16 rebounds, seven steals and five assists for the Pelicans. They were down 16 after one, even further back late in the third and still down nine with 4½ minutes left in regulation. But they kept coming and Holiday had three baskets and a couple free throws in OT to help them finish it off.

Kristaps Porzingis and Tim Hardaway Jr. each scored 25 points for the Knicks, who lost their third straight and 10th in their last 12 games. Jarrett Jack had a season-high 22 points, and Enes Kanter finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

It was a miserable way to finish a rare January home game for the Knicks, who begin a seven-game, coast-to-coast trip Monday in Brooklyn that has them away for two weeks.

Heat 97, Bucks 79: Goran Dragic scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and host Miami ran its winning streak to seven games.

Josh Richardson scored 16 points, and Hassan Whiteside

added 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Heat trailed 43-41 at the half, then took control with a 41-21 run in the first 16 minutes of the second half.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 22 points for Milwaukee.

Pacers 120, Trail Blazers 103: Jimmy Butler scored 24 points, Jeff Teague added 22 and Minnesota wrapped up a perfect homestand with a victory over Portland.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points and 11 rebounds for his NBA-leading 37th double-double of the season. The Wolves had their first 5-0 homestand since 2001, winning each game by double figures against the likes of New Orleans, Cleveland, Oklahoma City and New York.

Damian Lillard scored 25 points for Portland.

Pacers 120, Suns 97: Darren Collison scored 19 points to help visiting Indiana rout Phoenix.

Victor Oladipo scored 13 of his 17 points in the first half for the Pacers, who were coming off a home victory over Cleveland and have won four of five after a five-game losing streak.

Rookie Josh Jackson scored a career-best 21 points for Phoenix, which has lost four of five. Devin Booker added 15, but in 5-of-16 shooting. In an otherwise bad night for Phoenix, 17-year NBA veteran Tyson Chandler grabbed 14 rebounds to become the 40th player in league history to top 10,000 (10,003).

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	17	.771	0
Toronto	29	12	.707	3½
Philadelphia	19	20	.488	10
New York	19	24	.442	14½
Brooklyn	16	29	.372	17½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	17	.595	0
Washington	25	18	.581	1
Charlotte	16	25	.390	8½
Orlando	12	31	.279	13½
Atlanta	11	31	.262	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	19	16	.539	—
Detroit	22	19	.537	3½
Chicago	23	20	.535	3½
Milwaukee	20	20	.500	4
Chicago	16	27	.372	10½

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	30	11	.732	0
San Antonio	29	15	.659	2½
New Orleans	22	20	.524	8½
Dallas	19	24	.442	16½
Memphis	15	29	.337	17
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	23	16	.545	—
Oklahoma City	23	20	.535	5
Portland	22	20	.524	6
Denver	22	21	.512	6
Utah	15	25	.405	10½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	35	9	.795	—
L.A. Clippers	21	21	.500	13
Phoenix	16	28	.364	19
L.A. Lakers	14	28	.337	21
Sacramento	13	29	.310	21

Saturday's games				
L.A. Lakers 107, Dallas 101, OT				
L.A. Clippers 126, Sacramento 105				
Oklahoma City 101, Charlotte 91				
Washington 119, Brooklyn 113, OT				
New Orleans 127, Toronto 125				
Chicago 107, Detroit 105				
San Antonio 112, Denver 80				
New Orleans 123, New York 118, OT				
Miami 97, Milwaukee 79				
New Orleans 123, New York 118, OT				
Indiana 120, Phoenix 97				
Minnesota 120, Portland 103				

Monday's games				
Charlotte at Detroit				
Toronto at Philadelphia				
Milwaukee at Washington				
New York at Brooklyn				
San Antonio at Atlanta				
Miami at Chicago				
L.A. Lakers at Memphis				
Sacramento at Cleveland				
Sacramento at Oklahoma City				
Indiana at Utah				
Houston at L.A. Clippers				

Tuesday's games				
Minnesota at Orlando				
New Orleans at Boston				
Dallas at Denver				
Phoenix at Portland				
Washington at Chicago				
Detroit at Toronto				
New Orleans at Atlanta				
San Antonio at Brooklyn				
Golden State at Chicago				
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City				
Miami at Milwaukee				
New York at Memphis				
Utah at Sacramento				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				

Wednesday's games				
Portland at Atlanta				
Washington at Chicago				
Detroit at Toronto				
New Orleans at Atlanta				
San Antonio at Brooklyn				
Golden State at Chicago				
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City				
Miami at Milwaukee				
New York at Memphis				
Utah at Sacramento				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				

Thursday's games				
Portland at Atlanta				
Washington at Chicago				
Detroit at Toronto				
New Orleans at Atlanta				
San Antonio at Brooklyn				
Golden State at Chicago				
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City				
Miami at Milwaukee				
New York at Memphis				
Utah at Sacramento				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				

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L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City				
Miami at Milwaukee				
New York at Memphis				
Utah at Sacramento				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				

Indiana				
Phoenix				
	30	34	32	24-120
Three-point	16	28	22	31-97
Rebounds	30	34	32	24-120
Assists	16	28	22	31-97
Steals	16	28	22	31-97
Blocks	16	28	22	31-97
Turnovers	16	28	22	31-97
Fouls	16	28	22	31-97
Points in paint	16	28	22	31-97
Fast break points	16	28	22	31-97
Second half points	16	28	22	31-97
Points off the bench	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the first half	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the second half	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the third quarter	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the fourth quarter	16	28	22	31-97
Points in overtime	16	28	22	31-97
Points in regulation	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the first half	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the second half	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the third quarter	16	28	22	31-97
Points in the fourth quarter	16	28	22	31-97
Points in overtime	16	28	22	31-97
Points in regulation	16	28	22	31-97

Pelicans 123, Knicks 118 (OT)
NEW ORLEANS — Moore 6-14 0-0 16
Davis 17-30 12-15 48, Cousins 4-16 7-12 15
Rondo 2-7 0-0 4, Holiday 12-19 4-5 31, Cun-

GOLF/AUSTRALIAN OPEN



MARCO GARCIA/AP

Patton Kizzire reacts after sinking a par putt on the 17th green to win the Sony Open on Sunday in Honolulu.

Kizzire outlasts Hahn on sixth hole of playoff

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Patton Kizzire figured he was in for a long day when his putting stroke wasn't up to his standards.

He just wasn't expecting the Sony Open to go this long.

The longest playoff in more than five years on the PGA Tour finally ended Sunday when Kizzire two-putted for par from just off the green on the par-3 17th hole, and James Hahn's 8-foot putt to keep it going caught the right edge of the lip and spun away.

"It wasn't pretty," Kizzire said. "It was able to get it done."

Kizzire, who closed with a 2-under 68, became the first multiple winner on the PGA Tour this season. He went head-to-head with Rickie Fowler and beat him by one shot in the OHL Classic in Mexico last fall for his first PGA Tour title. He was in a four-man battle on the back nine at Waialae that was whittled down to Kizzire and Hahn, who closed with a 62 to match him at 17-under 273.

And the fun was just getting started.

Kizzire had to watch three times as Hahn had a putt to win,

two of those putts from 6 feet and 10 feet on the par-5 18th hole. Kizzire had two putts to win, though both of them were in the 30-foot range.

"That playoff was quite a marathon," Kizzire said.

Hahn has won both his PGA Tour title in playoffs, at Riviera and Quail Hollow. Closing with a 62 to even have a chance was no consolation.

"I played good enough to win, but I didn't," he said. "So for me, no matter how many birdies I make, if I'm not coming out of the room with the trophy, it really feels like I was defeated out there. I had a putt to win it. I'm going to be playing that over and over and over again."

"One win doesn't necessarily mean a whole lot," Kizzire said. "Two means a little more, and three is even better. I'm always looking for the next one. I'm super excited right now."

Defending champion Justin Thomas closed with a 68 and tied for 14th. Jordan Spieth finished with eight straight pars for a 66 and tied for 18th, ending his streak of seven consecutive top 10s dating to the PGA Championship in August.

Rough start for Americans

By JOHN PYE
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens was first to go, followed quickly by last year's Australian Open runner-up, Venus Williams.

CoCo Vandeweghe went out next as things really started to go crazy for the U.S. women, who eventually lost nine out of 10 first-round matches on a bleak opening day of the Australian Open.

Four months after American women filled all four semifinal spots at the U.S. Open — for the first time in 36 years — three of them are out of contention at the next Grand Slam.

Monday's major meltdown was compounded when eighth-seeded Jack Sock and No. 16 John Isner joined the procession of U.S. first-round losers.

In her first match at Rod Laver Arena since a vintage run in 2017 ended in a championship loss to sister Serena, Venus Williams lost her opener to Belinda Bencic 6-3, 7-5 to ensure the title won't stay in the family.

Serena Williams hasn't played a Grand Slam tournament since winning her 23rd major in Australia last year because of her pregnancy and the birth of her first child.

Fifth-seeded Venus was considered a serious contender in her 77th major to break a Grand Slam title drought dating back to 2008.

Bencic, who had never taken a set off Venus in four previous matches and had lost to Serena in the first round last year, had other ideas.

"I think I had a little bit too much respect, played a little bit careful and safe," Bencic said of her four previous losses to Venus. "This time I really tried to come out and hit it big."

Bencic saved five break points in the eighth game before a rain delay caused an almost half-hour suspension of play as the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena. She returned on a roll, winning the next six points to clinch the first set, and then dominated the second.

Venus had 26 unforced errors and 22 winners, and said she didn't get the luck of the draw by



VINCENT THIAN/AP

American Venus Williams makes a forehand return to Switzerland's Belinda Bencic during their match on the opening day of the Australian Open. Bencic beat the No. 5 seed, 6-3, 7-5.

having to play somebody who has been ranked as high as No. 7.

"I don't think I played a bad match. She just played above and beyond," Williams said. "I just have to give her credit for that."

The 20-year-old Bencic, who was born a couple of months after the last time there was no Williams in the second round at the Australian Open (1997), hit 32 winners, had 12 unforced errors and converted five of 11 break-point chances.

She credited playing with Roger Federer at the Hopman Cup — where they teamed up to win for Switzerland — with helping her recent improvement. Having Federer's parents supporting her in the crowd also helped.

Stephens was the first American to falter, losing 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 to No. 34-ranked Zhang Shuai to extend her losing streak since the U.S. Open to eight matches.

"Tennis is definitely a roller coaster," said the 13th-seeded Stephens, who was broken while serving for the match in the second set. "But I have learned to just not panic. It will be OK."

It wasn't OK for the 10th-seeded Vandeweghe, a semifinalist in Melbourne and at the U.S. Open last year, who was feeling sick and frustrated in a 7-6 (4), 6-2 loss to Timea Babos.

CICI Bellis, Sofia Kenin — who lost to No. 12 Julia Goerges, now

on a 15-match winning streak — Alison Riske, Taylor Townsend and Jennifer Brady all lost before Nicole Gibbs beat Viktoriya Tomova 6-1, 6-1 to end the streak of eight losses for the U.S. women.

Trina Falconi lost 6-1, 6-1 to No. 23-seeded Daria Gavrilova in the night match, making it 1 for 9.

"Yes we were talking about it in the locker room and some of them were ribbing me that I had to carry the flag for us," Gibbs said. "It was a tough day, and this is a tough sport. This isn't an indication of anything except we have a lot of depth and we had a bad day."

Sock, the highest ranked of the American men, lost 6-1, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-3 to Yuichi Sugita, while Isner lost to Australian journeyman Matt Ebden and qualifier Kevin King lost to No. 15 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Ryan Harrison beat Dudi Sela in a sometimes heated five-setter in front of a partisan crowd and qualifier Mackenzie McDonald also bucked the trend for the Americans.

Not everyone found the going tough on a mild opening day in Melbourne.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Grigor Dimitrov opened with routine wins, as did second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki and No. 4 Elina Svitolina on the women's side.

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OLYMPICS/NHL

Koreas discuss joint women's hockey team

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North and South Korea want to field a joint women's hockey team at the Pyeongchang Olympics, and they have relayed their position to the International Olympic Committee, officials in Seoul said Monday.

A joint team would require IOC approval. But if realized, it would be the Koreas' first unified Olympic team, leaving a major mark in their sports diplomacy that often mirrors their rocky political ties.

South Korean sports minister spokesman Hwang Seong Un said the two Koreas have been discussing the make-up of a unified women's hockey team since last year when the North's IOC representative, Chang Ung, visited South Korea along with his country's taekwondo demonstration team.

Hwang said the two Koreas later agreed in principle to form a joint women's hockey team and informed the IOC about that. He said the matter would be discussed Saturday when officials from the two Koreas and the IOC meet at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, according to South Korean media reports.

The South Korean government, led by liberal President Moon Jae-in, also wants to resume a joint march at the Olympics in Pyeongchang.

South Korean Sports Minister Kim Jong-hwa told lawmakers Monday that the two Koreas would parade under a "unifica-

tion flag" during the opening ceremony if they conduct a joint march. He said a joint march also requires an IOC endorsement and that it'll be also discussed during the upcoming IOC meeting.

Bobsled diplomacy will also be a topic at that meeting and could be part of the Olympics.

Sliders from North Korea and South Korea might share a four-man sled, with coaching provided by top international officials from Italy and the United States. The sled wouldn't be part of the actual competition, but one of the fore-running sleds sent down to test conditions before racing begins.

International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation President and IOC member Ivo Ferriani of Italy initially presented the idea. The rival Koreas would each get two spots in the sled, and the team would be trained in the days leading up to the four-man competition by Ferriani and fellow IBF official Darrin Steele — the CEO of USA Bobsled and Skeleton.

The IOC has said it views any cooperation between the rival Koreas during the Pyeongchang Games as "a great step forward in the Olympic spirit," and that it has "kept the door open" for North Korea to take part in the games.

Do said South Korea wants the Olympic hockey team roster to be expanded to embrace North Korean players, rather than a unified squad with an equal representation from both Koreas, which would require some South Korean athletes to be eliminated.

US bobsled drivers selected

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

Justin Olsen has an Olympic bobsled gold medal as a brakeman, and now gets the chance to pursue one as a driver.

Olsen, Nick Cunningham and Codie Bascue were announced Monday as the three drivers on the U.S. men's Olympic bobsled team for the Pyeongchang Games. Each will compete in the two- and four-man competitions.

Olsen was part of the U.S. four-man sled that won gold at the Vancouver Games in 2010. That sled was driven by Steven Holcomb, the longtime leader of the U.S. program who died last spring.

Holcomb and Steven Langton teamed to win two medals at the Sochi Olympics. Langton is returning to these Games as is Chris Fogt, who was in Holcomb's four-man sled that medaled in Sochi.

Bascue's four-man sled will be pushed by Evan Weinstein, Sam McGuffie and Langton. McGuffie will push for Bascue in two-man.

Cunningham will compete in four-man with Hakeem Abdul-Saboor, Christopher Kinney and Sam McEneaney. Abdul-Saboor will push Cunningham in two-man.

Olsen's four-man team includes Nathan Weber, Carlo Valdes and Fogt. Weinstein will switch sleds for two-man, and push Olsen.

No nation can have more than three sleds in any Olympic competition, and the Americans got their fourth four-man sled qualified on Sunday — the final possible day. It took Hunter Church, a 21-year-old rising star within the program, winning a North American Cup race in Lake Placid, New York to secure the points that the Americans needed for that third starting spot.

If Hunter is a very selfless athlete, a selfless competitor," Cunningham said. "He's all about his team, all about Team USA, and it shows. He did everything he could this whole season to make sure that USA has the best chance to take three sleds to the games."

If Church hadn't finished first on Sunday, the Americans would have gotten only two four-man berths — meaning some Olympians who were announced Monday would have been staying home otherwise.

Fogt and Langton are now three-time Olympians. Among the other push athletes is an U.S. Army green beret in Weber.



Nam Y. HUN/AP

Red Wings left wing Tyler Bertuzzi, center, celebrates with right Martin Frk, right, after scoring a goal as Blackhawks goalie Jeff Glass reacts during the third period on Sunday in Chicago.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	44	31	10	3	65	161	112
Boston	41	24	10	7	55	135	105
Toronto	45	25	17	3	53	146	131
Detroit	43	18	18	7	43	117	131
Florida	43	18	19	6	42	122	141
Montreal	43	18	20	5	41	111	133
Ottawa	42	15	18	9	39	117	149
Buffalo	44	11	24	9	31	99	151

Metropolitan Division					
Washington	45	28	14	3	59 140 127
Columbus	46	25	18	3	53 124 129
New Jersey	42	22	12	8	52 133 130
Pittsburgh	46	24	19	3	51 135 141
N.Y. Rangers	44	22	17	5	49 132 129
Philadelphia	43	20	15	8	48 128 125
N.Y. Islanders	44	22	18	4	48 153 160

Western Conference

Western Conference						
	Central Division					
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Winnipeg	46	26	13	7	59	153 127
Nashville	42	25	11	6	56	131 114
St. Louis	46	26	17	3	55	134 122
Minnesota	46	24	17	5	53	133 131
Dallas	44	24	17	3	51	133 122
Chicago	45	22	17	6	50	136 123
Colorado	42	23	16	3	49	139 125

Pacific Division					
Vegas	42	29	10	3	61 145 116
Calgary	45	25	16	4	54 131 125
Los Angeles	43	24	14	5	53 128 103
San Jose	41	22	13	6	50 116 111
Anaheim	44	20	15	9	49 121 122
Edmonton	46	20	23	3	43 126 147
Vancouver	45	18	21	6	42 119 147
Arizona	45	10	28	7	27 105 160

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

N.Y. Islanders @ N.Y. Rangers 2	6:00 p.m.
Philadelphia @ N.Y. Rangers	6:00 p.m.
Montreal @ 3, 50	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia 5, New Jersey 3	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota 4, Winnipeg 1	7:00 p.m.
Colorado 4, Dallas	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton 3, Vegas 2, OT	7:00 p.m.
San Jose 6, Arizona 5, OT	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim 4, Los Angeles 2	7:00 p.m.

Sunday's games

Detroit 1, N.Y. Islanders 2	12:00 p.m.
Calgary 4, Carolina 1	12:00 p.m.
Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Rangers 2	12:00 p.m.
Vancouver 5, Minnesota 2, OT	12:00 p.m.

Monday's games

Dallas at Boston	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim at Colorado	7:00 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal	7:00 p.m.

Tuesday's games

St. Louis at Toronto	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit	7:00 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Boston	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Anaheim	7:00 p.m.

Calendar

Jan. 27-28 — All-Star weekend, Tampa, Fla.
Feb. 26 — Trade deadline.
March 3 — Stadium Series: Toronto at Washington, at U.S. Naval Academy.
April 7 — Last day regular season.
April 11 — Playoffs begin.

NHL roundup

Bertuzzi, Mantha lift Wings

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyler Bertuzzi made a big play in front of the net and Dominic Turegon contributed on the penalty kill.

A couple of familiar names helped the Detroit Red Wings to a nice road win.

Bertuzzi and Anthony Mantha each had a goal and an assist, and Detroit beat the sloppy Chicago Blackhawks 4-0 on Sunday.

"I thought it was a pretty complete game," Red Wings coach Jeff Blashill said.

Dylan Larkin and Mike Green also scored for Detroit, which had dropped two in a row after a four-game winning streak. Petr Mrazek made 27 saves in his second shutout of the season and 12th of his career.

Chicago (22-17-6) had won three of four, including a 2-1 victory against Central Division-leading Winnipeg on Friday night. But the Blackhawks looked sluggish for most of their final game before their bye week.

"That was tough to watch," coach Joel Quenneville said. "We used the word brutal. I thought that might be complimentary. Out to lunch. Use 'em all. That wasn't good enough. Nowhere near good enough."

Bertuzzi, the nephew of former NHL forward Todd Bertuzzi, made it 4-0 when he punched in his first career goal on a rebound 13:37 into the third period. He also has five assists in 10 games this season.

Turegon got nine minutes of ice time in his NHL debut in front of his father, Pierre, an assistant coach with the Los Angeles Kings who played 19 seasons in the league.

Penguins 5, Rangers 2: Dominik Simon and Phil Kessel scored milestone goals to lead host Pittsburgh.

Simon got the first goal of his NHL career and Kessel scored his 20th of the season for his 700th point on back-to-back goals that put the Penguins ahead for good. Sidney Crosby, Patrick Hornqvist and Carl Hagelin also scored, and Tristan Jarry made 26 saves in the Penguins' fourth straight victory.

Flames 4, Hurricanes 1: Dougie Hamilton scored twice, Mike Smith made 38 saves and visiting Calgary ran its winning streak to seven games with a victory over Carolina.

The Hurricanes have lost four of five.

Canucks 3, Wild 2 (OT): Brandon Sutter scored 2:50 into overtime to lift visiting Vancouver past Minnesota.

Sutter, making his return after missing 21 games with a lower-body injury, cut to the inside against Janss Brodin and beat goalie Devan Dubnyk on the stick side.

Sunday

Red Wings 4, Blackhawks 0

Detroit	2	0	2-4
Chicago	0	0	0-0

First Period—1, Detroit, Larkin 7 (Bertuzzi, Athanasios), 4:08; 2, Detroit, Green 5 (Vancouver, Mantha), 5:18; 3, Detroit, Bertuzzi 1 (Frk, Jensen), 13:37.

Shots on Goal—Detroit 7-11-8-26. Chicago 10-5-12-27.

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 4; Chicago 0 of 3.

Goaltenders—Detroit, Mrazek 4-5-1 (27 shots-27 saves); Chicago, Glass 3-2-1 (26-22).

A-21,830 (19,717). T-2:18.

Penguins 5, Rangers 2

N.Y. Rangers	2	0	2-2
Pittsburgh	1	1	2-5

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 13 (Letang, Hagelin), 3:14; 2, N.Y. Rangers, Grabner 19, 15:17; 3, N.Y. Rangers, Smith 1 (Gagne, Lettieri), 15:06.

Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Simon 1 (Sprong, Dumoulin), 13:15; 5, Pittsburgh, Kessel 20 (Sheary), 14:30.

Third Period—5, Pittsburgh, Crosby 17 (Oleksiak, Kessel), 12:33; 7, Pittsburgh, Hagelin 3 (Oleksiak), 18:01.

Shots on Goal—Penguins 13-7-8-28. Pittsburgh 13-16-16-45.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 1; Pittsburgh 0 of 3.

Goaltenders—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 19-11-4 (46 shots-42 saves); Pittsburgh, Jarry 18-11-5 (38 shots-37 saves).

A-18,647 (18,387). T-2:31.

Flames 4, Hurricanes 1

Calgary	2	0	2-4
Carolina	0	0	1-1

First Period—1, Calgary, Stalton 1 (Lazar, Goli, 2, Calgary, Hamilton 7 (Ferland, Gaudreau), 18:47.

Second Period—3, Calgary, Hamilton 8 (Tkachuk, Gaudreau), 3:17; 4, Calgary, Tkachuk 13 (Brouwer, Backlund, 12:08 (pp), 5, Carolina, Stenmark 1 (Rask, McGinn), 15:29 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Calgary 12-16-6-30. Carolina 10-16-13-39.

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of 2; Carolina 1 of 6.

Goaltenders—Calgary, Smith 20-13-3 (39 shots-36 saves); Carolina, Darling 9-12-6 (30-26).

A-15,218 (18,680). T-3:15.

Canucks 3, Wild 2 (OT)

Vancouver	1	0	1-3
Minnesota	1	0	1-2

First Period—1, Minnesota, Zuckler 17 (Karlsson, Mi, Granlund), 4:59 (pp), 2, Vancouver, Eriksson 6 (Sedin, Edler), 16:57.

Second Period—1, Minnesota, Wink 5 (Staal), 12:14; 4, Vancouver, Vaneck 13 (Gagner, Taney), 16:48.

Over time—5, Vancouver, Sutter 3 (Eriksson, Edler), 2:50.

Shots on Goal—Vancouver 7-9-7-2-25. Minnesota 7-6-8-2-23.

Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 1; Minnesota 1 of 1.

Goaltenders—Vancouver, Markstrom 12-14-5 (25 shots-21 saves); Minnesota, Dubnyk 17-9-3 (25-22).

A-18,527 (18,064). T-2:26.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NFL



BUTCH DILL/AP

Former Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin is expected to sign a five-year deal with Arizona, where he will replace Rich Rodriguez, who was fired Jan. 2 amid sexual harassment allegations.

Arizona picks Sumlin to be football coach

BY JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

Arizona has tabbed former Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin as its football coach.

Sumlin is expected to sign a five-year contract, pending approval by the Arizona Board of Regents. An introductory news conference is scheduled for Tuesday.

He replaces Rich Rodriguez, who was fired Jan. 2 amid sexual harassment allegations.

"This is a tremendous day for Arizona Football and I am thrilled to welcome Kevin to our family," Arizona athletic director Dave Heeke said in a statement Sunday night.

Sumlin was fired after six seasons at Texas A&M in November and had reportedly been in the mix for numerous jobs, including Arizona rival Arizona State. The Sun Devils hired former NFL coach and ESPN analyst Herm Edwards.

The Aggies went 51-26 and went to a bowl game every season under Sumlin, but were 25-23 in SEC play and never matched his first season in College Station, when they were 11-2 with Heisman Trophy quarterback Johnny Manziel.

Texas A&M hired former Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher to replace Sumlin.

Sumlin is expected to retain defensive coordinator Marcel Yates and add Noel Mazzone as offensive coordinator.

Mazzone was Sumlin's offensive coordinator at Texas A&M the past two seasons. Yates was Arizona's offensive coordinator last season and spent two years working with Sumlin at Texas A&M before becoming defensive coordinator at Boise State.

Arizona finished 7-6 in Rodriguez's sixth season in Tucson, losing five of its final six seasons. The Wildcats lost 38-35 to Purdue in the Holiday Bowl.

Arizona fired Rodriguez after a notice of claim was filed with the state attorney general's office alleging he ran a hostile workplace. The claim filed by Rodriguez's former assistant alleged the coach fondled himself in front of her and he forced her to cover up an extramarital affair with another woman. Rodriguez acknowledged the affair, but denied the allegations.

Titans, Mularkey agree to part ways

Ousted coach led Tennessee to 1st playoff win in 14 years

BY TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans split with coach Mike Mularkey on Monday after he revived a team with the NFL's worst record over two seasons and led them to their first playoff victory in 14 years.

The Titans announced the move two days after a 35-14 loss to New England in the AFC divisional round.

"It became evident that we saw different paths to achieve greater success," controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk said. Mularkey had one year left on his contract and refused to discuss his status Sunday. But he said he had talked with Strunk and was ready to move "full speed" ahead. Mularkey also defended offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie's play-calling with quarterback Marcus Mariota and said his coaching staff would be back as well.

Strunk said in a statement Monday she talked with Mularkey about extending his contract over the past week since a 22-21 comeback win against Kansas City in the wild-card round.

"It is certainly unfortunate that we couldn't find enough common ground," she said. "I generally believe that continuity is the best path for success, but I also view this as an important moment for our football team as we try to make the next step to sustained success on the field."

General manager Jon Robinson will oversee his first coaching search with the Titans. He was hired two days before



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Two days after a 35-14 loss to New England in the AFC divisional round, the Tennessee Titans announced that Mike Mularkey will not return as head coach with the team next season. Mularkey had one year left on his contract.

Mularkey had the interim title removed in January 2016. The Titans now are the seventh NFL team to change coaches since the start of the season.

The Titans have scheduled a news conference for Monday afternoon.

Strunk turned to Mularkey in November 2015 when she fired Ken Whisenand after 23 games. Mularkey went 2-7 down the stretch as the Titans finished 3-13 to

land the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016. That capped a 5-27 record over 2014 and 2015 that was the worst in the NFL.

Mularkey led the Titans to back-to-back 9-7 records — their first consecutive winning records since 2007-08. He finished with a 21-22 record after a season in which the Titans cost themselves the AFC South title with a three-game skid in December.

Fantastic: Vikings, Jaguars advance to face Eagles, Pats

FROM BACK PAGE

quarterback Blake Bortles, "and we want to keep it going."

In the NFC, Nick Foles and the resilient Philadelphia Eagles (14-3) host Case Keenum and the surprising Minnesota Vikings (14-3) — in a matchup of teams that overcame losing their starting quarterbacks.

"They count us out all the time," said Minnesota's Stefon Diggs, whose 61-yard touchdown catch as time expired Sunday gave the Vikings a stunning 29-24 victory. "Nobody thinking we can do this. This game was over. I don't stop playing till the clock hit zero. That's it."

The Vikings open as a 3½-point favorite against the Eagles, while the Patriots open favored by 9½ in their game.

Being here is nothing new, of course, for New England, which has advanced to the Super Bowl in three of the past six seasons.

For fresh-faced Jacksonville, however, this is all rare territory.

The Jaguars are playing in the conference title game for just the third time in franchise history, and first since losing to Tennessee during the 1999 season. Jacksonville is also one of four franchises to never play in the Super Bowl.

"I'm sure there will still be tons of people that are going to disapprove or talk negative or hate or do whatever they want," Bortles said. "But we get to keep playing. We get an opportunity to go in for Foxborough for another week, so I'm just honored to be able to do this and especially with this group of guys."

And, it has all come full circle for Tom Coughlin, who was Jacksonville's coach the previous time the franchise got this far

in the postseason.

He went on to win two Super Bowls with the New York Giants — both against Bill Belichick's Patriots — but is now the Jaguars' executive vice president of football operations. He helped assemble a squad with coach Doug Marrone that has been powered by a tenacious defense that ranked second in the NFL during the regular season in sacks.

After a few ho-hum games, Bortles, running back Leonard Fournette and the Jaguars offense showed it isn't too shabby, either, outslugging Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh Steelers in a stunning 45-42 victory Sunday.

"Obviously, with what they have on their side of the ball, it's a good team and we know they've got a good offense," Bortles said. "We knew we had to keep scoring."

There's also this neat nugget: Jacksonville's first AFC championship game appearance came during the 1996 season — against New England, which went on to play in the Super Bowl under then-coach Bill Belichick and lost to the Brett Favre-led Green Bay Packers.

The Patriots have made it to the AFC championship game for seven straight seasons, clinching this trip with a 35-14 drubbing of the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night.

"The reality of the NFL is what we did this week will have nothing to do with what happens next week," Brady said. "We're going to have to go repeat it, so you've got to get right back to work, right back to the process of trying to figure out how to break down our opponent."

"Everyone's got to feel good physically and mentally and go out there and try to cut

it loose one more time in a huge game."

Meanwhile, Philadelphia is playing for the NFC title for the 11th time, but hasn't won it since the 2004 season — when the Eagles went on to lose to the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

"We'll be ready for next week," defensive tackle Fletcher Cox said.

The Eagles used steady play by Foles and a late goal-line stand by their defense to beat the Atlanta Falcons 15-10 on Saturday. It set up Philadelphia's first conference championship appearance since the 2008 season.

And it comes despite the Eagles losing starting quarterback Carson Wentz, a leading MVP contender, to a season-ending knee injury last month.

"Our team never wavered, defense did an amazing job, special teams," Foles said. "That's just been the story this year is that we just all stuck together."

The same can be said of the Vikings, who entered the season with Sam Bradford as their quarterback and had big playoff hopes. But he went down with a knee injury after the first week — and it appeared Minnesota's dreams might be dashed.

Enter Keenum, an unheralded and undrafted backup who ended up having the best season of his career.

To top it off, Keenum combined with Diggs on one of the most stunning plays in NFL playoff history, a winning TD that sent the Vikings to their 10th NFC title game and first since the 2009 season.

"I don't even know right now," Keenum said. "I have no words."

And now, the Vikings, Eagles, Patriots and Jaguars are all one win away from the Super Bowl.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Surging Jaguars surprise Steelers

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Jacksonville Jaguars haven't faced the New England Patriots in a game that matters in more than two years. That's OK. They know a pretty good place to go to get a heads up on their opponent in the AFC title game.

"We need the notes the Steelers have on the Patriots because they were doing a lot of advanced scouting," safety Barry Church said Sunday after the Jaguars stunned Pittsburgh 45-42 to earn a trip to Foxborough next weekend to face the defending Super Bowl champions. "We need all the notes they got on the Patriots. Other than that, it's time to roll to New England baby."

With their brute force rookie running back, their enigmatic quarterback and more than a little bit of swagger in tow.

"You can do all the talking you want on Twitter, to the media, all of that," Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey said. "But when you get on the field you're going to have to produce, you're going to have to show us what you're about. We're confident because we know the work we put in. We're going to go out there and then confident."

It showed.

Ticked off by several Steelers

only talking about a rematch with the Patriots with a spot in the Super Bowl on the line, the Jaguars took it out on Pittsburgh one touchdown at a time. They earned the franchise's third trip to the conference championship game in the process.

Now it's on to New England, a place they've never won and where the Patriots hung 51 on them in 2015. But that was before coach Doug Marrone put together the NFL's best defense. Before Leonard Fournette arrived. Before Blake Bortles embraced his role as the enigmatic touchstone for a team that suddenly looks like a threat on both sides of the ball.

Third-seeded Jacksonville (12-6) never trailed and was only rarely threatened on an afternoon it matched the most points the Steelers have given up in their storied playoff history. Fournette churned for 109 yards and three scores. Bortles bounced back from an ugly performance against Buffalo by throwing for 214 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown to at least temporarily hit mute on its critics.

"I have no animosity against anyone who said anything," Bortles said. "I'm happy to be able to come here and do this with this team. There are a lot of guys on the couch watching this."



Don Wright/AP

Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles hands off to Leonard Fournette in Sunday's divisional playoff game against the Steelers.

That group now will include the Steelers. Pittsburgh (13-4) lost at home in the divisional round for the second time in 11 tries, unable to overcome a sluggish start that allowed the Jaguars to take a 21-point lead.

The Steelers only had the ball with a chance to tie the once over the final three quarters, the lone shot evaporating when Ben Roethlisberger threw incomplete on fourth-and-1 at the Jacksonville 39 early in the fourth quarter. The Jaguars responded with a drive that culminated in Fournette's third touchdown, and that was it.

Roethlisberger, who finished with 469 yards passing and a franchise-record, five touchdowns, said he will be back in 2018, though the sting of a stunning upset will linger into an off-season longer than planned.

"If you don't win the Super Bowl, you've underachieved, right?" Roethlisberger said. "Because that is

always our goal. It wasn't our day. It wasn't our year."

Juggernaut Jaguars: Though Jacksonville's offense has endured dry spells this season, the Jaguars did finish the regular season fifth in scoring. While the defense chipped in a touchdown on a 48-yard fumble return by linebacker Telvin Smith, Bortles kept the Jaguars moving. Jacksonville converted 8 of 14 third downs and its lone fourth-down conversion came on Fournette's 1-yard leap in the first quarter. "All week everybody was talking about our offense wasn't going to do good, they were going to shut down our offense," Jacksonville linebacker Myles Jack said. "As you saw, Blake Bortles, he was hitting the open man. He had a plethora of big throws. Fournette was running the ball the hardest I've seen them. The offense did a hell of a job."

Scoreboard

Playoffs

Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 13
Philadelphia 15, Atlanta 10
New England 35, Tennessee 14
Sunday, Jan. 14
Jacksonville 45, Pittsburgh 42
Minnesota 29, New Orleans 24
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 21

Jacksonville at New England
NFC
Minnesota at Philadelphia
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 28
at Orlando, Fla.

AFC vs. NFC
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 4
at Minneapolis
AFC champion vs. NFC champion

Sunday

Vikings 29, Saints 24

New Orleans 0 0 7 17-24
Minnesota 0 0 7 12-29
First Quarter
Min-McKinnon 14 run (Forbath kick), 9:45.

Min-Fo Forbath 20, 4:42.
Second Quarter
9:58 Min-Murray 1 run (Forbath kick), 9:58.

Third Quarter
NO-Thomas 3 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 1:18.

Fourth Quarter
NO-Thomas 3 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 13:09.
Min-Fo Forbath 49, 10:12.
NO-Kamara 14 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 9:01.
Min-Fo Forbath 53, 1:29.
NO-Fo Lutz 43, 2:25.
Min-Diggs 61 pass from Keenum (run failed), 9:02.

	NO	MIN
First downs	24	24
Total Net Yards	358	403
Rushes-yards	24-80	29-98
Passing	17-38	30-8
Time of Possession	28:07	31:17
Kickoff Returns	2-50	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-12	25-40
Comp-Att Int	25-42	2-10
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-16	2-10
Fumbles-Lost	4-20	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Time of Possession	26:43	33:17

Rushing—New Orleans: Kamara 11-43, Ingram 10-25, Ginn 1-1, Brees 2-1. **Minnesota:** Murray 1-1, McKinnon 8-34, Ham 1-7, Keenum 1-4.

Receiving—New Orleans: Ginn 8-72, Thomas 7-85, Kamara 4-62, Hill 1-34, Snead 2-18, Ingram 1-3. **Minnesota:** Diggs 6-137, Thielen 6-74, Rudolph 5-28, Wright 3-66, McKinnon 3-17.

Missed Field Goals—New Orleans: Lutz 58. **Minnesota:** Forbath 49.

Jaguars 45, Steelers 42

Jacksonville 14 14 0 17-45
Pittsburgh 0 0 7 21-42
First Quarter
Jac-Fournette 1 run (Lambo kick), 10:40.

Jac-Fournette 18 run (Lambo kick), 5:26.

Second Quarter
Jac-Yeldon 4 run (Lambo kick), 11:31.
Pit-A Brown 23 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 9:58.

Jac-Smith 50 fumble return (Lambo kick), 2:20.

Pit-Bryant 36 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 9:58.

Third Quarter
Pit-Bell 19 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 9:05.

Fourth Quarter
Jac-Fournette 3 run (Lambo kick), 10:34.

Jac-A Brown 43 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 9:05.

Jac-Bonahan 14 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 4:13.

Pit-Bell 8 run (Boswell kick), 2:18.

Jac-A Brown 45, 1:12.

Pit-Smith-Schuster 4 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 3:1.

A-64:52.

	JAC	PIT
First downs	26	28
Total Net Yards	358	545
Rushes-yards	35-144	18-83
Passing	21-44	46-2
Time of Possession	34:42	29:55
Kickoff Returns	3-47	4-104
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-1
Comp-Att Int	14-26-0	37-58-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	2-7
Fumbles-Lost	4-20	1-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Time of Possession	28:59	31:10

Rushing—Jacksonville: Fournette 25-109, Bortles 5-35, Yeldon 5-20. **Pittsburgh:** Bell 6-57, Roethlisberger 37-58.

Receiving—Jacksonville: Bortles 14-26, Fournette 1-12, Rogers 5-31, Smith-Schuster 3-5, Bryant 2-78, James 1-12.

Missed field goals—None.

Pittsburgh struggles to stop Jacksonville

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh's drama-filled season ended shockingly. A final, forgettable act.

No shot at the Patriots. No seventh Super Bowl trophy. No tomorrow.

And when it ended following a game no one expected, Ben Roethlisberger, Le'Veon Bell, Antonio Brown and the rest of the dejected Steelers searched to find words to describe all that had gone wrong.

This was a struggle from the start. "It wasn't our day," Roethlisberger said. "It wasn't our year."

Doomed by two first-half turnovers and a pair of head-scratching play calls on fourth down, Pittsburgh was stunned in the AFC playoffs by the Jacksonville Jaguars, who outslugged the Steelers 45-42 on Sunday to earn a trip to New England for next week's conference championship game.

Roethlisberger, who had wondered if he was washed up after throwing five interceptions in a loss to the Jags on Oct. 9, set a franchise postseason record with five touchdown passes but it wasn't enough as the Steelers (13-4) couldn't stop a Jacksonville offense that was supersonic in the second half.

"It's disheartening," said Brown, who caught two TD passes and played at his All-Pro level while battling a calf injury. "I thought we had the right guys. As a player, you live for these moments. Now we start all over."

As Roethlisberger dressed at one end of Pittsburgh's locker room, a few of his teammates sat at their stalls in disbelief.

Cam Heyward handled wave after wave of



Don Wright/AP

Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown, left, catches a pass for a touchdown with Jaguars cornerback A.J. Bouye defending Sunday.

questions about the team's numerous defensive lapses. Bell downplayed that his messy contract situation created an unnecessary distraction in the days leading up to the game, and cornerback Artie Burns sat in his uniform and stared blankly at the floor.

The Steelers never recovered from a 21-0 first-half deficit and are now left to wonder what might have been. Twice they got within seven in the second half only to give up back-breaking plays to the Jaguars, who rushed for 168 yards and seemed to come up with a big

play whenever they needed one.

"It's crazy that we couldn't get off the field," Heyward said. "They played better than us — simple as that."

The Jaguars had the Steelers out of step early on. After rookie Leonard Fournette's second TD, the score set up by linebacker Myles Jack's interception of Roethlisberger, Jacksonville was up 14-0 and Pittsburgh's rowdy fans were using their Terrible Towels to muffle their disgust.

The Steelers seemed to panic when coach Mike Tomlin elected to go on fourth-and-inches and then inexplicably ran a sweep to Bell that got snuffed. Later, Roethlisberger threw an incomplete on fourth down when a simple sneak might have moved the chains.

"We didn't execute well enough and they did," Tomlin said when asked about his decisions. "Roethlisberger went 37-for-58 for 469 yards and the five TDs, the last coming with 1 second left."

It was a sobering moment for the star quarterback who has orchestrated so many comeback wins during a 14-year career. Roethlisberger found some solace in his final throw.

"Nobody quit and that speaks volumes about this team," he said.

Bell finished with 155 total yards and afterward sidestepped much talk about his contract. He was franchise tagged by the team for \$12 million this season and has made it clear he wants more money.

As for his own future, Roethlisberger indicated that he intends to return next season. The 35-year-old has hinted at retirement, but that seemed far from his mind as he swallowed a loss few saw coming.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Vikings stun Saints with last-second TD

Missed tackle dooms New Orleans' rally

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings, after watching their late-third-quarter 17-point lead vanish at the hands of the indefatigable Drew Brees, went back in front of the New Orleans Saints on a field goal with 1:29 left.

Trailing by two with that much time? That was no trouble for Brees, who moved the Saints in position for the responding field goal with 25 seconds remaining.

The problem was they left just enough space for Case Keenum and the Vikings to answer with one of the NFL's all-time last-play stunners.

Keenum completed his last-ditch heave near the sideline Sunday on the game's final play to Stefon Diggs, who slithered away from the Saints for a 61-yard touchdown to give the Vikings a 29-24 victory and a spot in the NFC championship game at Philadelphia.

"I don't know what the percentage was," Keenum said, "but just try to give the guy a chance."

The play the Vikings ran, believe it or not, is called "Seven Heaven." Kyle Rudolph, Jarious Wright and Diggs all ran sideline routes from the right of the formation, with Diggs the deepest with his break coming at about 25 yards.

This wasn't quite as improbable of a play as Franco Harris on the Immaculate Reception for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1972 playoffs, which was also in the divisional round, but these Vikings are on some kind of special path.

The Vikings were out of timeouts and nearly out of options when Keenum took the snap with 10 seconds left and dropped back from his 39-yard line. He lofted a throw to Diggs, who jumped in front of Marcus Williams before the Saints rookie whiffed on his awkward attempt to cut underneath Diggs for a tackle.

Nobody was behind him in the secondary, as Diggs knew before he pivoted to keep his balance, kept his feet in bounds and kept running along the goal line.

"I had a pretty good view of it," Rudolph said. "I couldn't believe it. Things just don't work out that way."

Particularly for the Vikings, whose previous victory in the playoffs had been after the 2009 season at home against Dallas in the divisional round. They lost in overtime the following week in the NFC championship game that year at New Orleans, one of the many late collapses in team lore that have conditioned Minnesotans to brace for the worst. So while only defensive end Brian Robison is still around from that painful loss to the Saints, this thriller at least served as a leaver of sorts for a fan base accustomed to being on the other side.

"It's a turning point for everybody," Diggs said. "The majority of people doubt us. They don't think it's going to happen, especially because of history. People have a way of saying how often that painful loss to the Saints, this thriller at least served as a leaver of sorts for a fan base accustomed to being on the other side."

Now the Vikings can become the first team to play in a Super Bowl on their home turf, if they beat the Eagles. Instead of the usual win-or-go-home stakes, they're in a win-and-go-home situation.

"It would've been nice to be home, but I feel like if we take care of business the way we supposed to we'll have another chance to see our fans," Diggs said.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs (14) makes a catch over Saints free safety Marcus Williams misses the tackle on Sunday in Minneapolis. Diggs scored the game-winning touchdown. The Vikings won 29-24 to advance to the NFC championship game.



Brees

Here are some other key developments during the game:

Not-so-happy birthday: Brees turned 39 on Monday, a celebration that's sure to be muted so soon after this crushing loss. After finishing 7-9 in four of the previous five seasons, the Saints were one of the NFL's biggest breakout stories in 2017 with an energized and revamped defense and the potent running back tandem of Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara. But how long will Brees, whose contract is expiring, want to stick around with a Super Bowl ring already in hand?

"I'm more toward the end of my career than I am at the beginning. I know that," Brees said. "That's all I'll divulge."

Picked off: Brees finished 25-for-40 for 294 yards and three touchdowns, all in the final 16:16 of the game, but his performance was tainted a bit by two costly intercep-

tions before halftime. One came on a leaping grab by safety Andrew Sendejo that set up a touchdown drive for the Vikings in the second quarter. The other came off a tip by Everson Griffen at the line that sent the ball fluttering into Anthony Barr's arms at the Minnesota 10-yard line to thwart the next possession.

Ted Ginn had broken open on a post pattern on the first one, a first-and-10 play from the New Orleans 15, and Brees saw an opportunity.

"I just forced it. There was no reason to do that," Brees said.

Forbath finishes strong: Kai Forbath missed a 49-yard field goal attempt in the closing seconds of the first half, but he was good from the same distance in the fourth quarter and again from 53 yards to put the Vikings up 23-21 with 89 seconds to go. That gave him three makes against the team that cut him right before the 2016 season in favor of Will Lutz, whose 43-yard kick gave the Saints the lead before the Keenum-to-Diggs stunner.

"I was ready to kick another one," Forbath said, "but what an incredible way to win."

Sad end to rookie season for Williams

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Marcus Williams sat sobbing in front of his cubicle in the silenced New Orleans locker room, his face buried in a folded white towel.

Deep inside Minnesota's stadium that erupted in victorious euphoria a few minutes earlier, Williams was having a hard time grappling with what had just happened. The rest of his Saints teammates were, too, after a 61-yard touchdown pass by Case Keenum to Stefon Diggs burned Williams on the game's final play and gave the Vikings a 29-24 victory for a place in the NFC championship game.

"You can't let it beat you down," Williams said, his eyes still reddened by the tears. "I'm going to take it upon myself to do all I can to never let that happen again. If it happens again, then I shouldn't be playing."

Williams, the rookie free safety and second-round draft pick from Utah who was one of several new players who helped the Saints transform a once-lagging defense, was the last man in coverage when the Vikings sent Kyle Rudolph, Jarious Wright and Diggs on routes toward the sideline with no timeouts remaining. Diggs was the deepest, and as he jumped to catch the ball, Williams went low to try to undercut him with an awkwardly executed attempt at a tackle.

"It was just my play to make," Williams said. "The ball was in the air. I can go at that."

Diggs, who made sure to note right before the catch that Williams was the only one behind him, kept his balance as he landed and deftly kept his feet in bounds. Then he spun around and kept on running into the end zone to queue up the celebration.

"As a safety back there, you've got to be the eraser," Williams said. "Last play of the game, you've got to go do it. You know you've got to save the game."

The Saints were both defensive and supportive of their first-year teammate, who could play another decade in the NFL and not experience a similar devastation with the stakes so high and the chance for failure so low.

"He's got to keep his head up," said cornerback and fellow rookie Marshon Lattimore. "I'm not going to say he's not feeling bad about the play, but we've got his back. We're young, and we're trying to come back next year. Marcus is a special player. You can't let that one play, as big as it was, turn you against him. He's been playing great all year. Just didn't get the tackle this time."

Defensive end Cameron Jordan tried to take on some of the blame.

"Had I been a half-step faster and been able to get off the tight end and the tackle and completely take over that play," Jordan said, he could have sacked Keenum before the "Immaculate Reception," ever made it to the air.

Williams intercepted Keenum earlier to set up the second touchdown drive, and the Saints sacked Keenum twice. In the end, though, all that mattered was the failure to tackle Diggs on the fateful final play.

"You work so hard for a goal. It's right there, and you come up short," linebacker Marshon Lattimore said. "You can imagine anybody, how they would feel. It's just a learning opportunity for all of us."

SPORTS

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NFL PLAYOFFS



'Keep it going'

Fantastic finishes send Vikings, Jags to conference championship games

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

NEW YORK

atch out, New England. Here comes Jacksonville.

Get ready, Philly. The Vikings are sailing into town.

Tom Brady and the big game-tested Patriots (14-3) square off against the sack-happy Jacksonville Jaguars (12-6) next Sunday in the AFC championship game in Foxborough, Mass. — with the winner headed to the Super Bowl.

"It's been an awesome year," said Jaguars
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Top: Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs celebrates in the end zone after catching the winning touchdown on the final play against the New Orleans Saints in the NFC divisional playoffs on Sunday in Minneapolis. The Vikings won 29-24. Left: Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette carries the ball against the Steelers in Pittsburgh on Sunday during the first half of Jacksonville's 45-42 AFC divisional playoff victory. Fournette ran for three touchdowns.

PHOTOS BY JEFF WHEELER, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS, top, and DON WRIGHT/AP, left

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